JETS COMICS

愛人 [AI-REN] 4

田中ユタカ

Yutaka Tanaka

JETS COMICS

愛人 [AI-REN] 4

田中ユタカ

白泉社

Human said,
"The world is made of murderers' dream."

DESIGN CONCEPT YUTAKA TANAKA
DESIGN WORKS PRIGRAPHICS

JETS COMICS

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[AI-REN]

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4

愛人【AI-REN】用語解説

「愛人」（ａｉｒｅｎ）

元々は中国語で恋人・配偶者を指す言葉。終末期の患者の精神的な救済を目的とした擬似的な配偶者。恋人のような役割を果たす人造遺伝子人間。

何らかの理由で社会的に存在を許されない人造遺伝子人間を凍結し、元の人格を封印することによって「愛人」として再生させる。

再生時間は長くても10か月くらいと言われている。

ＡＧＨ－ＲＭＳ

Artificial Genes "Human Regenerated for Mental Support"「精神的援助用再生人造遺伝子人間」。「愛人」の正式な名称。長くて言いにくいのであまり使われることのないお役所言葉。

スイックス（ｓｉｘｅｓ）

元々はアメリカのＳＦ作家フィリップ・Ｋ・ディックの小説に登場する言葉で、小説中の遺伝子改良エリートたちがそう呼ばれている。「愛人【AI-REN】」でも「人間の最終完成形態」と言われるほどのある特定の遺伝子改良人間の種類を呼ぶ言葉として使われている。

外見的特長は真っ白な髪と真っ白な肌、東洋的な美貌。不死身に近い生命力を持ってはいるが、生殖能力は完全に無く、青年期からは身体の絶えざる自己崩壊に晒されることになる。ナギ ハルカはスイックス。

「他者」

本来的には免疫学的な言葉として登場してくる。生まれて間もない頃「事故」によって身体の半分を失ったイクルに、何者かが「移植」したもの。これによってイクルは一命を取りとめたのだが「他者」はイクルと同化も融合もすることは無く、イクル本来の身体と絶えず激しく相克し続けている。

イクルの身体の半分は「他者」で出来上がっている。イクルは「他者」によって生きていられるのであるが、同時に自分を生かしている「他者」によって死ななければならなくなっている。

南半球災害

連日ＴＶのニュースで報道され続けている大災害（のようだ）。地球的規模で起こった未曾有の超大型の自然災害らしく、そのために世界全体が大変な政情不安に陥っているようだ。ほとんど人類の危機とも言っていい大事件だと思われるが、イクル君たちはあまり熱心にニュースを見てくれないので具体的なことは何も描かれていない。

余命２００年

人類全体が後２００年程で滅んでしまうというもの。まるで一般常識のように語られるが、そのリアリズムは各々の持っている情報の質と量によりかなり違う。「大予言」的なものから相当シビアなものまで。作中では人類は自然な性交によって生殖を行う能力をすでに無くしてしまったとされている。性欲そのものさえかなり希薄になってしまっているようであり、セックスによって愛し合うということが忘れ去られて久しい世界となっている。

国連

「国際連合」の略称。ただし今日のものとはまったくの別組織。

本部は南極・地球港にある。

作中の「国」という概念は現在のものとは大きく違う。今日的な意味での国家はかなり以前に機能しなくなっている。国連に参加している「国」の中には「国土」を持たないものも多い。国民さえ存在するのかどうか疑わしいものもある。

作中に登場する「アフリカ」や「中国」などの言葉も現在のものとは人種的、地理的、歴史的にほぼ無関係。いわば勝手に名乗っているだけの集団と考えられる。

「国連」はしばしば冗談の種にさえされるほどの懐古趣味的なネーミング。

地球港（アース・ポート）

南極にある巨大な港、およびその一帯。国連本部施設がある。地球の頂上の街。

ＨＩＴＯ出現以来、洋合いには難民を主とした人々が百万人以上押し寄せている。緊張した状態が続いている。

種の寿命

人類という種そのものの寿命。その終わりが差し迫ったものであるという考え方。

ＨＩＴＯ

人類の前に現れた他者、とされる者たち。第２巻および第３巻参照のこと。

ＨＩＴＯはＨ－ＴＯのリーダーと思われる人物。外見はハルカと同じスイックスの特徴を持つ。彼は世界に向けてこう言った「どうぞかまいません。私を愛して下さい。」

そして自らを人間たちと名乗った。

カレルレン曰く「神のパロディ」

「竜」

ＨＩＴＯが乗って来たとされる巨大な竜。しかし現在ではその姿は消え、海上に光る「鬼火」に変わってしまった。

「産」だけではなく、キリトの滅説の映像をはじめとするＨＩＴＯに関するあらゆる記録、物証は人類の前から忽然と消滅してしまった。

「ナギ」

ハルカの「母親」て高名な生命科学者のナギが主導していた研究機関、「人間の完成形態」スイックスを生み出した。

「ナギ」が戦終的に目指したのは現生人類に代わる新しい人間――「次世代の人間」を作り出すことだったようだ。スイックスは結局「次世代の人間」にはなれなかった存在。

ホーム

ハルカの施設。遺伝子操作の失敗や何らかの理由で不要とされた者たちが暮らしている。

外観はメタリックな銀色のドーム。元は「ナギ」の宇宙船（スペースコロニー？だったもの。

メイホアとその旦那、ダイチ等大勢の子供たち、元宇宙戦隊の「兵士」、年老いたナギ、および職員たちがいる。メイホアにはもうすぐ赤ちゃんが生まれる。

ヒルコ

ホーム内部の裏原にたくさんある最のようなカプセルの中にいる者たち。

兵士曰く「種の寿命にさえ打ち勝つような新しい人間を作り出そうとしてたんだ・・その残骸だ」

研究所（ラボ）

イクルが育った施設。「ナギ」の系列機関でやはり「次世代の人間」の研究をしていたようだ。ハルカは家庭教師役として乗り込みイクルと出会った。

ここの周りにはやたらとひまわりが咲いている。

市役所

地下の墓場のような場所で愛人【AI-REN】にするための人造遺伝子人間たちが凍結されている。

ここの担当は「ミヤザキさん」。人のよさそうなおじさんて、ハルカとも知り合い。

長生きのトマト

イクルの家の庭に植えられているトマト。食べると長生きの出来るトマトということではない。ネーミングの由来は第２巻を参照のこと。しかし近頃はさすがに寿命で「もうすぐあわかれ」になってしまっている。

「事故」

生まれたばかりのイクルが遭遇した事故。スペースコロニーが爆発したのか？

イクルの両親もこの時亡くなっている。遺児はイクルたちの部屋のクロゼットの中の焦げた服。

「死神」

イクルが見る髪の長い女性のような真っ黒な影。

「他者」の具現化した姿か？

あいハルカもこの「死神」の姿を見たことがある。

愛人 [AI-REN] 4

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JETS COMICS

この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。

愛人 [AI RIN]

IN THE PAST, WHEN A PERSON PASSED AWAY, THEIR BODY WAS EITHER BURIED AND RETURNED TO THE EARTH, OR BURNED INTO ASH

OR, DEPENDING ON ITS LOCATION, SOMETIMES IT WAS EATEN BY VULTURES OR OTHER ANIMALS

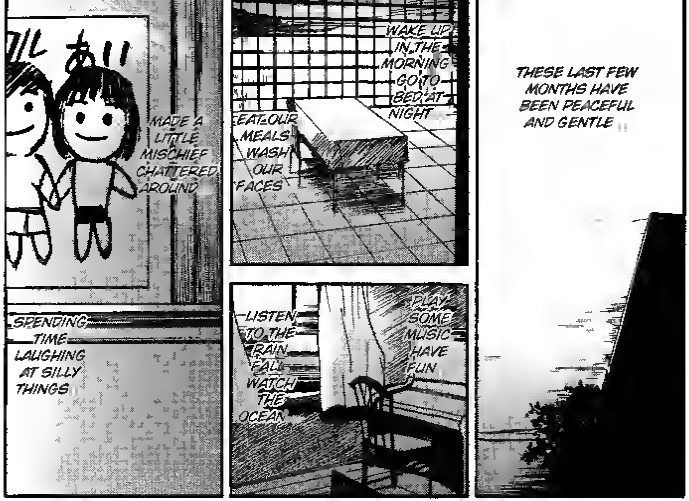
AI AND I DECIDED THAT WE WOULD REDUCE OUR BODIES INTO MOLECULES USING THE EQUIPMENT AT HAPUKA-SENSEI'S FACILITY

Chapter 27. Honeymoon

IKURU, ♡
THUMP
MM, COME ON IN..
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
<GRIN>

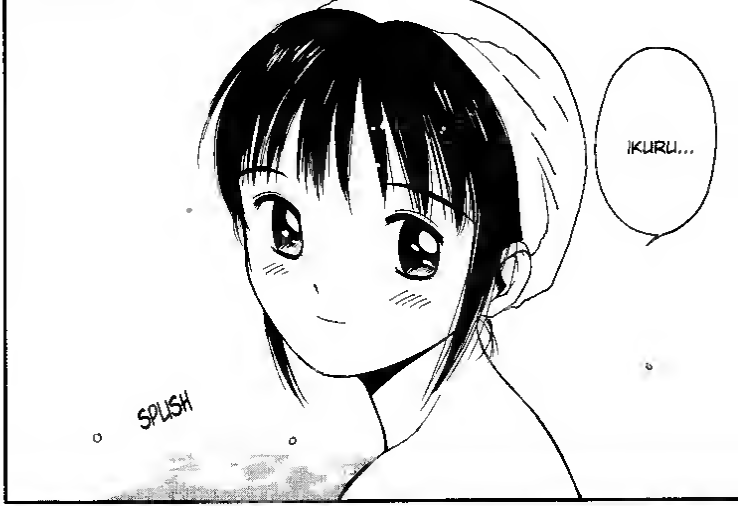
HOW COME YOU'VE BEEN SMILING SO MUCH RECENTLY?
FUFU FU-
BECAUSE I'M HAPPY!
IS THAT SO...
EEK
!!
AI!
HOLD ON...

SPLA-SH
AAAHHH~
.....
I LIKE IT THIS WAY.
COULDN'T YOU COME IN QUIETLY?
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN~
SINCE AI AND I STARTED LIVING TOGETHER ?

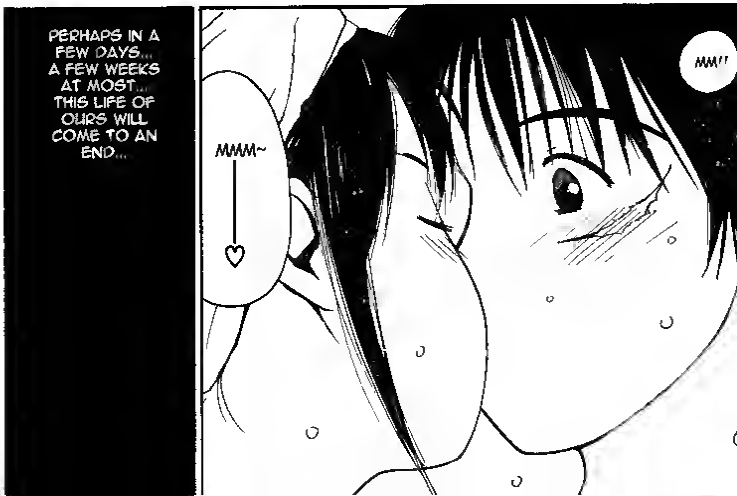

MADE A LITTLE MISCHIEF CHATTERED AROUND
SPENDING TIME LAUGHING AT SILLY THINGS
WAKE UP IN THE MORNING GO TO BED AT NIGHT
EAT OUR MEALS WASH OUR FACES
LISTEN TO THE RAIN FALL WATCH THE OCEAN
PLAY SOME MUSIC HAVE FUN
THESE LAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN PEACEFUL AND GENTLE

PLOINK
AI HAD BEEN TAKING CARE OF IT WITH ALL HER HEART
OUR OLD TOMATO PLANT SLOWLY BEGAN TO WITHER AWAY

AND THEN, THE SEASON BEGAN TO CHANGE


IKURU...
SPLISH

STANDING BETWEEN US, SLOWLY BUT SURELY TIGHTENING ITS GRIP ON OUR LIVES
DEATH HAS BEEN GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO REALITY...
EVER SINCE AI COLLAPSED THAT FIRST TIME


PERHAPS IN A FEW DAYS... A FEW WEEKS AT MOST... THIS LIFE OF OURS WILL COME TO AN END...
MMM~
MM!!

I WUV WHEN WE TAKE OUR BATHS TOGETHER!
UNLIKE BEFORE, AI DOESN'T LEAVE THE ROOM WHEN I TAKE MY PAINKILLERS.
WE ALSO BATHE TOGETHER NOW.
KISS
...HOW NICE A LITTLE SKINSHIP IS!
MM! I NEVER KNEW...

THESE DAYS ARE

...OUR LAST DAYS IN THIS WORLD.

HMM?

BEAUTIFUL...
MY THOUGHTS, MY FEELINGS, I WANT TO PASS EVERYTHING TO Ai...
AH-
Ai LOOKS SO BEAUTIFUL...
EVERY PART OF Ai'S BODY IS...
...BEAUTIFUL...
I WANT TO PASS ON!
Ai IS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN...
...ANYTHING ELSE IN THIS WORLD.

IKURU,
I'LL GET EMBARRASSED IF YOU KEEP SAYING THAT!
SPLASH
I'LL SAY IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN!
BECAUSE IT'S TRUE!
OKAY~
SPLASH
WHENEVER IKURU TELLS AI THAT SHE'S BEAUTIFUL...
IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING, BUT AI IS HAPPY!
AH!
.....
PLEASE KISS AI'S BODY...

...KISS IT...
PLEASE...

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

TWITCH
AH...
HOW CAN IT BE SO SOFT...
AH, BODY...

HOW CAN IT BE...
HOW CAN IT BE SO WARM...?
THUMP
THUMP
Ai...
IKURU,
AI WILL DO IT THIS TIME!
TINGLE
HUUU~
OK...
ACTUALLY AI HAS WANTED TO DO THIS FOR A WHILE~ ♡

♡
A SMALL BIRD PECKING ME...
CHU
CHU
CHU
FEELS LIKE.
IKURU?
I GOT GOOSEBUMPS... HOW STRANGE...
AH..
AH..
AH~ ♡
AH
YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT HOW SHOULD I PUT IT..
DIDN'T AI FEEL A TINGLY FEELING?

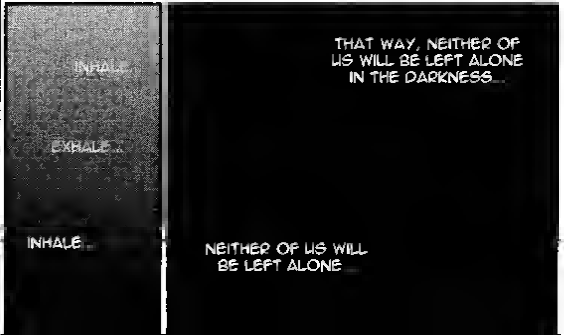
AI FELT...
...A LITTLE BIT...

SHWA
IT'S RAINING
MM...

EXHALE...

SHWA
GOOD NIGHT, AI.
GOOD NIGHT, IKURU.

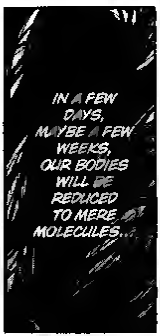
FIRST INHALE
THEN EXHALE
UNTIL BOTH OF US ARE ASLEEP, AI AND I SYNCHRONIZE OUR BREATHING PATTERNS...


INHALE...
EXHALE...
INHALE...
NEITHER OF US WILL BE LEFT ALONE...
THAT WAY, NEITHER OF US WILL BE LEFT ALONE IN THE DARKNESS...

INHALE...
EXHALE...
INHALE...
INHALE...
EXHALE...
EXHALE...

INHALE..
SQUEEZE
THAT WE COULD SIMPLY ACCEPT EVERYTHING, AND END OUR LIVES WITHOUT REGRET...
WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH...

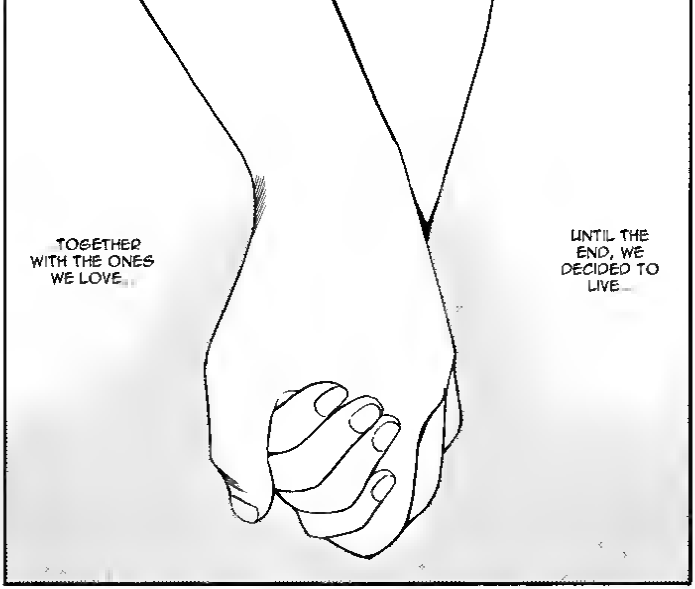
...THINGS THAT WE CHERISHED...
HAPPY DAYS. FUN DAYS...
EVERY NIGHT THE IMAGE OF DEATH...
...BECOMES LARGER AND MORE FRIGHTENING...
EVERYTHING...
...ENGULFED INTO THE DARKNESS...


IN A FEW DAYS, MAYBE A FEW WEEKS, OUR BODIES WILL BE REDUCED TO MERE MOLECULES...

IKURU,

THAT'S RIGHT...

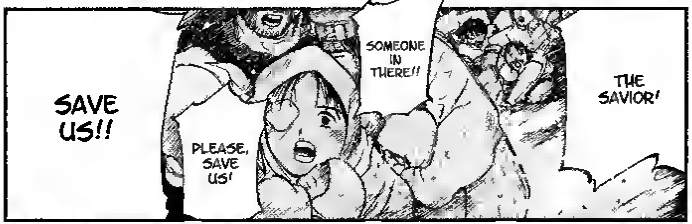
MM...
I'M HERE TOO...
THESE ARE THE LAST DAYS THAT
DON'T WORRY... GO TO SLEEP...
MM... SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW...
...AI AND I WILL BE IN THIS WORLD
WE DECIDED TO STAND AGAINST OUR FATE



THAT... IS LIVING...!

?
IKURU, AMAZING!
WHEN THE RAIN CLEARED THE NEXT MORNING, WE SAW A MIRACLE
WOW! AMAZING!
AH...
ONCE I REALIZED THE MEANING OF IT...
ISN'T IT ?
THUMP
TEARS BEGAN TO FLOW
ISN'T IT ?
THUMP
OUR OLD TOMATO PLANT'S CHILDREN! ♡

IS IT A TERRORIST ATTACK?!
A FIFTH NUCLEAR EXPLOSION HAS BEEN DETECTED IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE, SECTOR MB4!
IT'S PROBABLY A BOMBAY-CLASS NUCLEAR WEAPON FROM THE LAST CENTURY!
HEADQUARTER'S DEFENSIVE SYSTEM'S RECOVERY RATE IS DOWN TO 40%!
WHAT ABOUT OTHER LOCATIONS?!
EARTH PORT BLOCKADE HAS BEEN PARTIALLY BREACHED!



A FEW DAYS AFTER THE IMAGES OF "HITO" AND "PHANTOM LIGHT" DISAPPEARED FROM HUMAN RECORDS...

I A S H WAS ANNIHILATED BY A BIOLOGICAL WEAPON FROM A TERRORIST ATTACK...

[Chapter 27 / End]

WHAT HAPPENED TO MY SWEET AND INNOCENT AI?! NOOOOO!!!! SO UM YEAH, THIS CHAPTER WAS KINDA KINKY, I GUESS IT HAS TO CARRY YOU THROUGH THE NEXT FEW CHAPS WHICH ARE PRETTY HEAVY. I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE PAIN VINNY IS GONNA HAVE TRANSLATING EM. O

-POOKIE

THIS IS A TRANSITIONAL CHAPTER. AS YOU MAY NOTICED, FOLLOWING CHAPTERS MAY NOT SHOW MUCH OF AI AND IKURU. BUT (*TAKEN OFF TO PREVENT SPOILERS*). OH, WHILE I WAS TRANSLATING, I NOTICED THAT KOREAN VERSION IS CENSORED!!! BLOODY CURSES AT THE CENSORSHIP FOR ERASING AI'S... UM... NEVERMIND ^^;

-BIGVINNY

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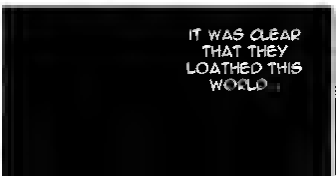
-=Ai-Ren v04 c27=-
Raws: USC_Gamecocks
Translator: BigVinny
Editor: pOOkie

愛人 [AI-REN]

At the time this note is being written,
we have not yet determined the identity of the terrorists..
...which is why we've come to refer to them as the "Nameless Ones."
A NOTE FROM CAMELO CARELEN, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE IASH

THERE WAS NO CLEAR ANSWER.
WHAT WERE THEIR MOTIVES? WAS THERE SOME IDEOLOGICAL OR PERHAPS POLITICAL REASON BEHIND IT?
JUST WHAT DID THEY WANT?

BUT...
WHAT IS THIS?


IT WAS CLEAR THAT THEY LOATHED THIS WORLD.

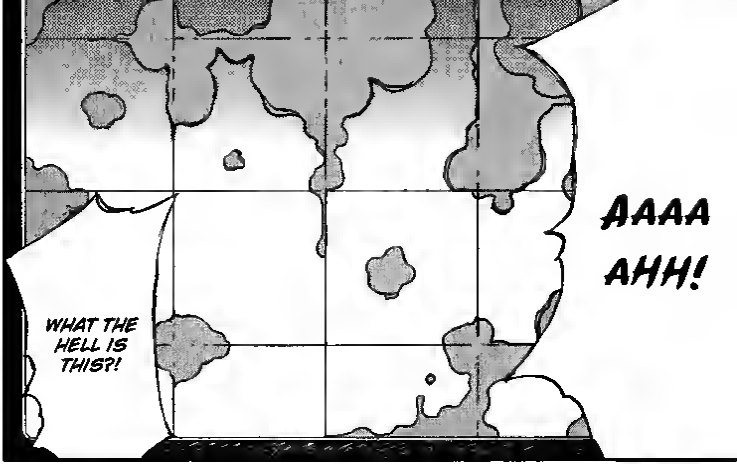
WHAT SECURITY GUARDS FOUND WERE CHARRED IMAGES OF HUMAN BODIES COVERING THE WALLS AND FLOORS...
THERE AREN'T ANY SURVI-VORS!
NO SIGN OF ANY RESIS-TANCE!
IT LOOKS LIKE HE COMMITTED SUICIDE!
STOMP
STOMP

HAA
HUU
.....

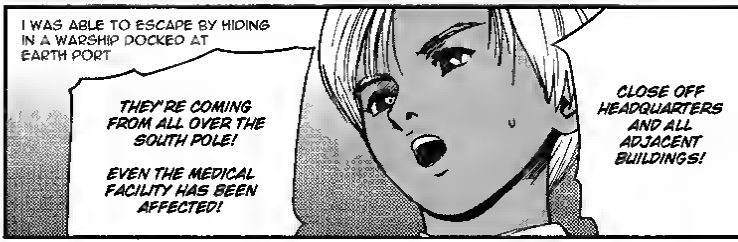
愛人 [AI-REN]

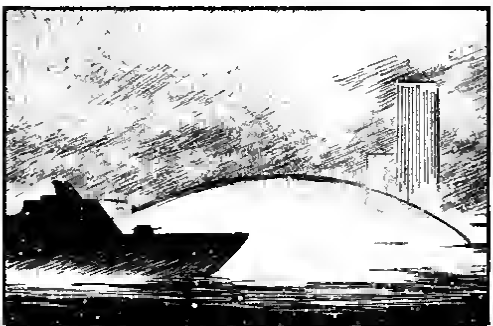
Chapter 28: In This World

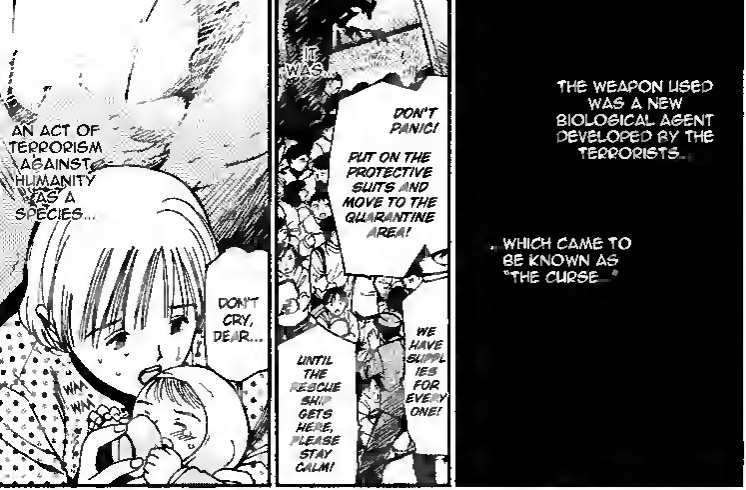
SHORTLY AFTER, THE STAFF MEMBERS EXAMINING THE DAMAGE WERE ASTOUNDED...

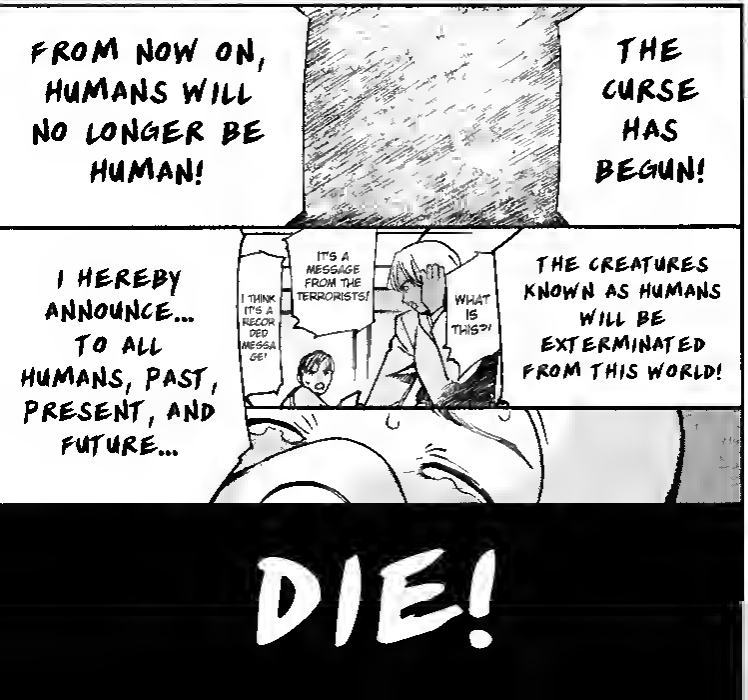


ARTIFICIAL SYMBIOTIC HUMANOID

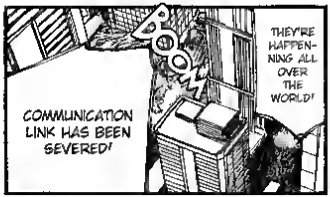

I WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE BY HIDING IN A WARSHIP DOCKED AT EARTH PORT
THEY'RE COMING FROM ALL OVER THE SOUTH POLE!
EVEN THE MEDICAL FACILITY HAS BEEN AFFECTED!
CLOSE OFF HEADQUARTERS AND ALL ADJACENT BUILDINGS!



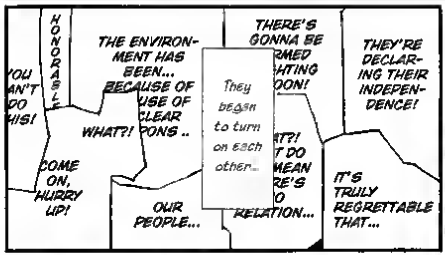

AN ACT OF TERRORISM AGAINST HUMANITY AS A SPECIES...
DON'T CRY, DEAR...
WAH WAH
IT WAS...
DON'T PANIC!
PUT ON THE PROTECTIVE SUITS AND MOVE TO THE QUARANTINE AREA!
UNTIL THE RESCUE SHIP GETS HERE, PLEASE STAY CALM!
WE HAVE SUPPLIES FOR EVERY ONE!
THE WEAPON USED WAS A NEW BIOLOGICAL AGENT DEVELOPED BY THE TERRORISTS...
...WHICH CAME TO BE KNOWN AS "THE CURSE..."

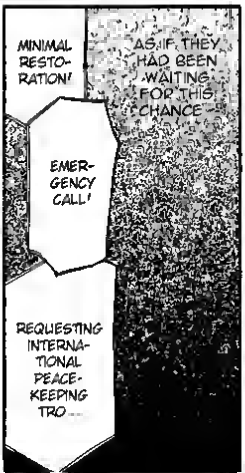

FROM NOW ON, HUMANS WILL NO LONGER BE HUMAN!
THE CURSE HAS BEGUN!
I HEREBY ANNOUNCE... TO ALL HUMANS, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE...
I THINK IT'S A RECORDED MESSAGE!
IT'S A MESSAGE FROM THE TERRORISTS!
WHAT IS THIS?!
THE CREATURES KNOWN AS HUMANS WILL BE EXTERMINATED FROM THIS WORLD!
DIE!

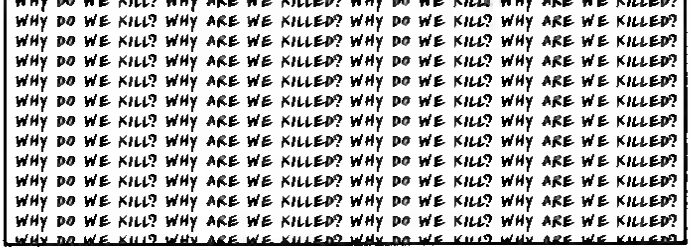
DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE!

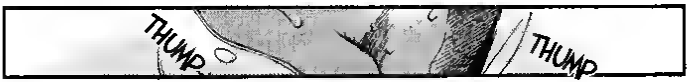


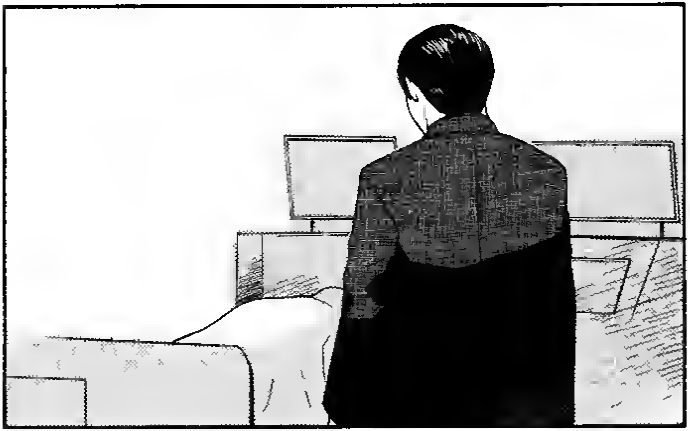
THE ONES WITH THEIR OWN SENSE OF JUSTICE...
THE RESTRAINT THAT HELD THEM BACK HAD COME LOOSE...




MINIMAL RESTO- RATION!
AS IF THEY HAD BEEN WAITING FOR THIS CHANCE...
EMER- GENCY CALL!
REQUESTING INTERNA- TIONAL PEACE- KEEPING TRO...

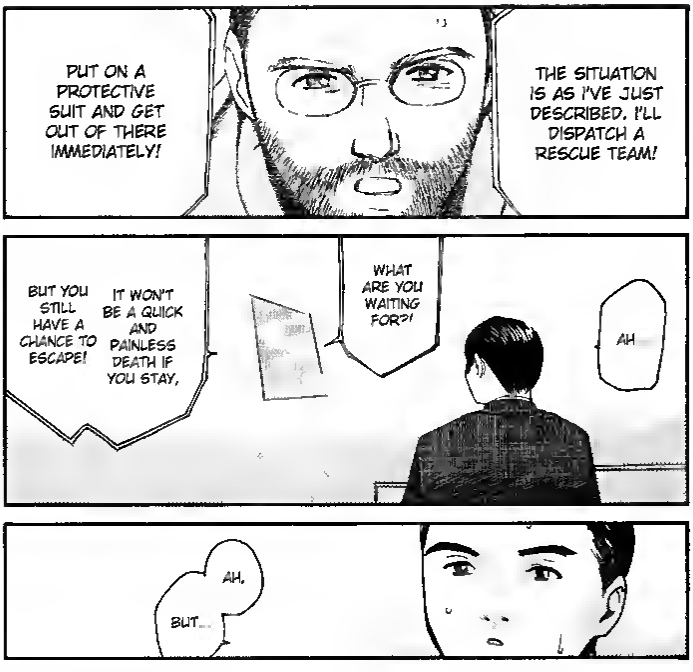




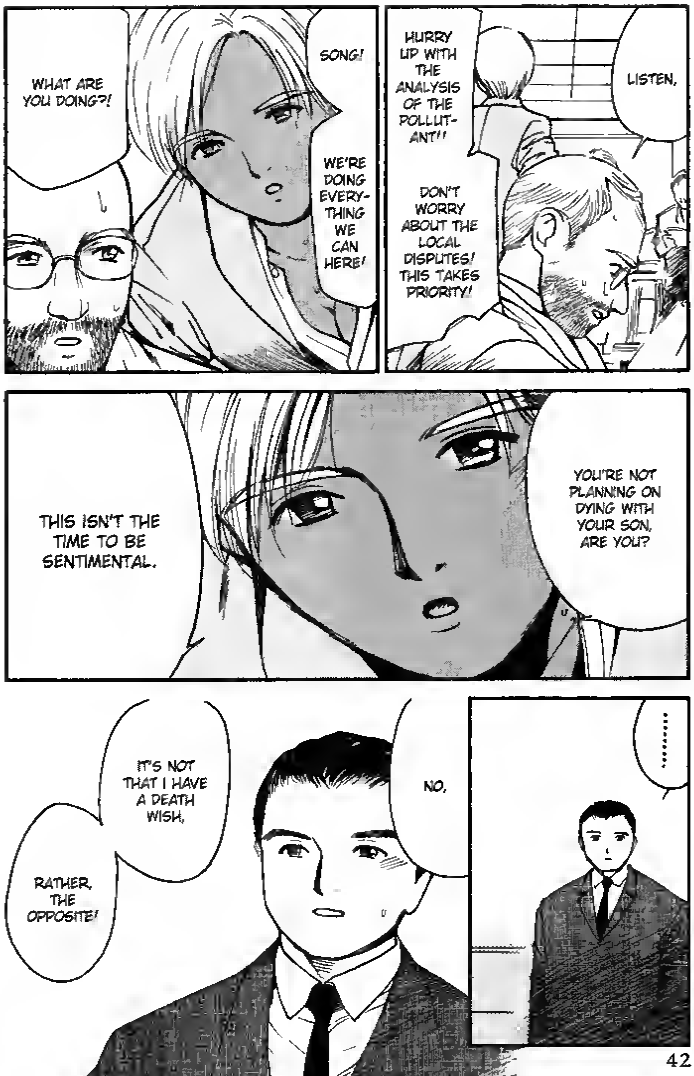


ONE OF MY SUBORDINATES, SONG SOHN-IL,
VISITING HIS SON AT HEADQUARTER'S MEDICAL FACILITY
ON HIS DAY OFF
WAS ONE OF THE VICTIMS.

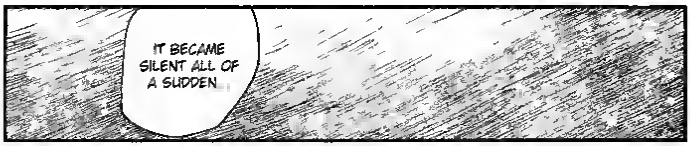
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

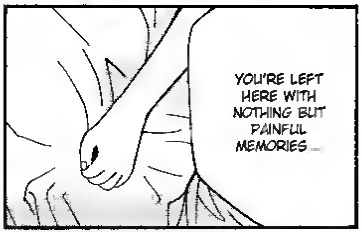

PUT ON A PROTECTIVE SUIT AND GET OUT OF THERE IMMEDIATELY!
THE SITUATION IS AS I'VE JUST DESCRIBED. I'LL DISPATCH A RESCUE TEAM!
BUT YOU STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
IT WON'T BE A QUICK AND PAINLESS DEATH IF YOU STAY.
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!
AH...
AH, BUT...
HE CANNOT ESCAPE.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THIS CHILD...?

NOT ONLY THAT, THERE'S SIMPLY NOWHERE FOR HIM TO GO...
HE'S ALREADY TRYING HIS HARDEST JUST TO STAY ALIVE...
THERE THERE
ZZZ
TSS
...IS ONLY
TIME REMAINING UNTIL AREA IS COMPLETELY POLLUTED
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOU PLAN TO STAY?
SO..?
EVEN IF YOU DO STAY, YOUR SON WON'T BE HAPPY...


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SONG!
WE'RE DOING EVERY-THING WE CAN HERE!
HURRY UP WITH THE ANALYSIS OF THE POLLUT-ANT!!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE LOCAL DISPUTES! THIS TAKES PRIORITY!
LISTEN.
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE SENTIMENTAL.
YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON DYING WITH YOUR SON, ARE YOU?
IT'S NOT THAT I HAVE A DEATH WISH,
RATHER, THE OPPOSITE!
NO.
.....

...THAT I AM HIS FATHER...
I HAVE TO SHOW HIM.
WE WERE DISCONNECTED AFTER THAT...
CAN ANYONE HEAR ME?!
IS ANYONE IN THERE?!
WHIRRR
RUSTLE
PRETTY SOON, THE ENTIRE AREA WILL BE CONTAMI-NATED...
TIME REMAIN-ING IS
ZZZZ


IT BECAME SILENT ALL OF A SUDDEN...

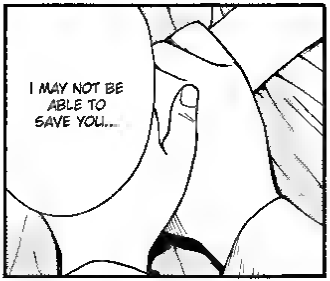

YOU'RE LEFT HERE WITH NOTHING BUT PAINFUL MEMORIES...

PRETTY SOON, THIS PLACE WILL BE ENGULFED BY HATRED... MANKIND'S PUNISHMENT...
THOSE WHO WILL TRY TO HARM YOU WILL COME...

SORRY...

...I'M SO SORRY...

AS A FATHER, I WANTED TO BE ABLE TO SHOW YOU... NO MATTER HOW HARD THE WORLD IS, I WAS ABLE TO LIVE ON WITH PRIDE...



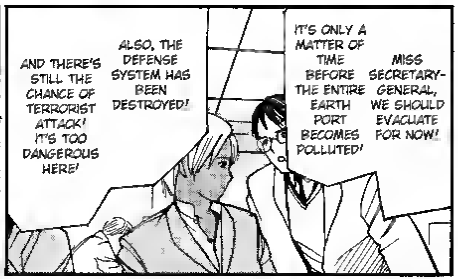
DON'T LOSE TO THIS, AND LIVE ON!
NMM .. I'LL TRY MY BEST .
IT'S EXPAND-ING!
THE POLLUTED AREA IS EXPAND-ING!

ATTA-
BOY...
BEEEEP

BEEP
ENTIRE AREA... IS NOW POLLUTED
BA-
-BOOM
KYAA!
AAH!
OUTER WALL HAS BEEN BREACHED!
POLLUTANT IS NOW SPREADING OUTSIDE!
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT!

.....
LET'S ESCAPE!

TO WHERE ?

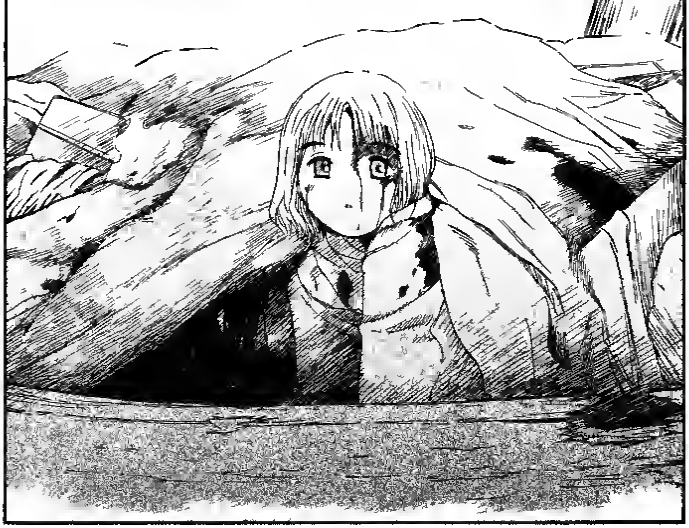

AND THERE'S STILL THE CHANCE OF TERRORIST ATTACK! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS HERE!
ALSO, THE DEFENSE SYSTEM HAS BEEN DESTROYED!
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE ENTIRE EARTH PORT BECOMES POLLUTED!
MISS SECRETARY-GENERAL, WE SHOULD EVACUATE FOR NOW!

ACK!
KYAA!

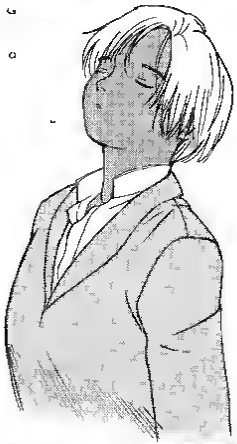
THEY'RE BARGING IN, BELIEVING THAT THEY CAN FIND GOD AND SALVATION!
EVEN THOUGH I TOLD THEM THERE'S ONLY DEATH HERE!

THERE IS NO ESCAPE IN THIS WORLD...

THEY'RE SHUFFLING AROUND... EVEN KILLING EACH OTHER!
REFUGEES ARE ENTERING THE EARTH PORT!

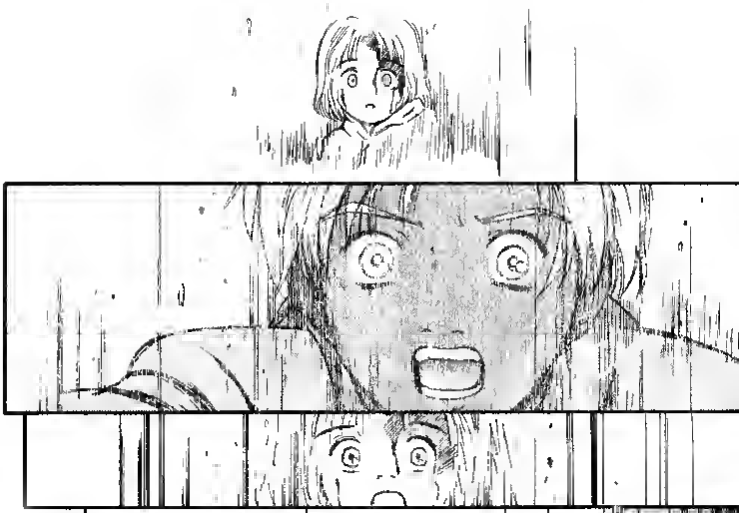


Where...
is God...



THE CURSED OUTSIDE AIR WAS SURPRISINGLY CRISP...

WHY IS SHE LOOKING AT ME...?
A BLOOD-STAINED CHILD...
BLUE SKY...?
WE'RE STILL INVESTIGATING THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE ONES BEHIND THE SATELLITE ATTACK THAT TIME...



[Chapter 28 / End]

BAH! DESPITE WHAT VINNY SAYS, I ACTUALLY LIKE THESE CHAPTERS TOO I JUST ALSO HAPPEN TO APPRECIATE THE CUTE HAPPY ONES THAT FEATURE AI IN ALL HER CUTENESS DOING CUTE THINGS ANYWAYS, THIS CHAPTER WAS KINDA ANNOYING TO EDIT, ESPECIALLY WITH THE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE ETC , BUT IT WAS PRETTY GOOD THAT LAST BIT WITH THE SATELLITE WAS TOTALLY UNNECESSARY THO (

-POOKIE

UNLIKE POOKIE, I LIKE THIS SORT OF CHAPTER MORE IT IS GRIM AND DISTRESSING BUT ALSO MEANINGFUL. TRULY A WELCOME CHANGE TO YOUR GARDEN VARIETY ECCHI MANGA OR GROTESQUE ONE. I LOVED THIS CHAPTER EVEN THOUGH IT WAS REAL "BEACHY" TO TRANSLATE ^^;

-BIGVINNY

SOLARIS

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KOREAN MANWHA TRANSLATIONS

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-=Ai-Ren v04 c28=-
Raws: USC_Gamecocks
Translator: BigVinny
Editor: p00kie

愛人 [AI REN]

MY BODY EVAPORATED,
ENGULFED BY THE LIGHT...

TIME BECAME
FRIGHTENINGLY LONG...

THE HEAT PEELED OFF MY CLOTHES AND
SKIN, BURNED MY EYES AND EVERY OTHER
CELL IN MY BODY, MELTING AWAY THE BRAIN
AND THE BITS OF BREAKFAST THAT SAT
UNDIGESTED IN MY INTESTINES...

EVERYTHING
DISAPPEARED...

...IN AN OVERWHELMING ACT OF VIOLENCE

...HAD BEEN DESTROYED...

IT'S BEAUTIFUL...

AH... THE BLUE SKY...

愛人 [AI-REN]

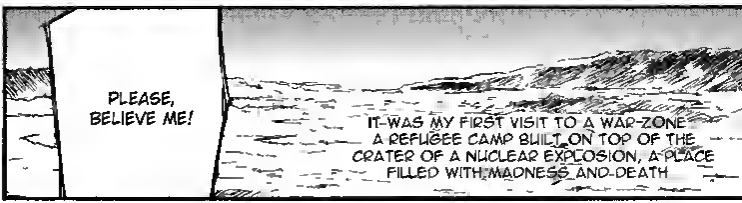
Chapter 29. Murderer's Dream

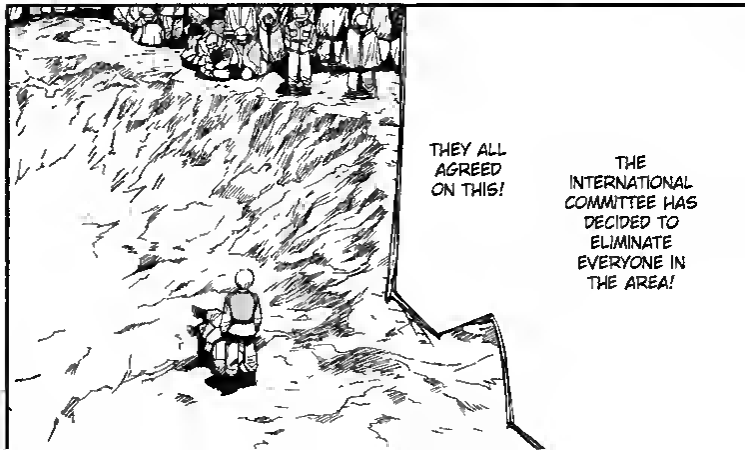
WHEN I REGAINED CONCIOUSNESS, I WAS BACK AT THAT PLACE, AT THAT TIME...

UNDER THE METALLIC BLUE SKY, ALMOST FAR ENOUGH TO REACH SPACE...

I HAD KILLED A PERSON
WIPE
KICK

I WAS STILL A TEENAGER...
HUFF


PLEASE, BELIEVE ME!
IT WAS MY FIRST VISIT TO A WAR-ZONE A REFUGEE CAMP BUILT ON TOP OF THE CRATER OF A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, A PLACE FILLED WITH MADNESS AND DEATH


THEY ALL AGREED ON THIS!
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO ELIMINATE EVERYONE IN THE AREA!

THERE WILL BE NO AID! THE REST OF THE WORLD HAS FORSAKEN YOU!
THEY DECIDED TO ELIMINATE THE SEEDS OF WAR FROM THIS PLACE!
I HAD SHOT A SOLDIER LIVING AMONGST THE REFUGEES WHO HAD TRIED TO KILL ME...
I DIDN'T THINK HE WOULD DIE...
EVERYTHING FELT SO UNREAL...
I WAS FRIGHTENED THAT IT DIDN'T FEEL REAL.
FOR THE SAKE OF WORLD PEACE, THEY NEEDED TO MAKE SOME SACRIFICES!
THEY WOULDN'T OBEY A WITHDRAWAL ORDER! I COULDN'T FORGIVE THEM!
THERE WON'T BE ANY INTERNATIONAL TROOPS OR VOLUNTEERS COMING!
I'M NOT A COWARD!
ALL I EVER WANTED TO DO WAS SAVE PEOPLE!
BUT THIS EVENT...
SLIDE
THIS EVENT...
YOU MUST LEAVE! RESCUE WORKERS ARE WAITING JUST OUTSIDE THE BLOCKADE!
SLIDE
BUT THERE'S STILL A FEW DAYS BEFORE THIS PLACE IS INCINERATED!
IT WAS MY DREAM...

IT'S TOO LATE TO CRY ABOUT IT...
YOU GUYS WERE THE ONES WHO CAUSED THIS...
AHH
UGH
.....
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO HELP YOU...
SLIDE
THE MAIN REASON BEHIND THE DECISION TO INCINERATE EVERYONE

AS A RESULT OF THE LAST WAR, MOST REFUGEES HAD BECOME LIVING BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS.

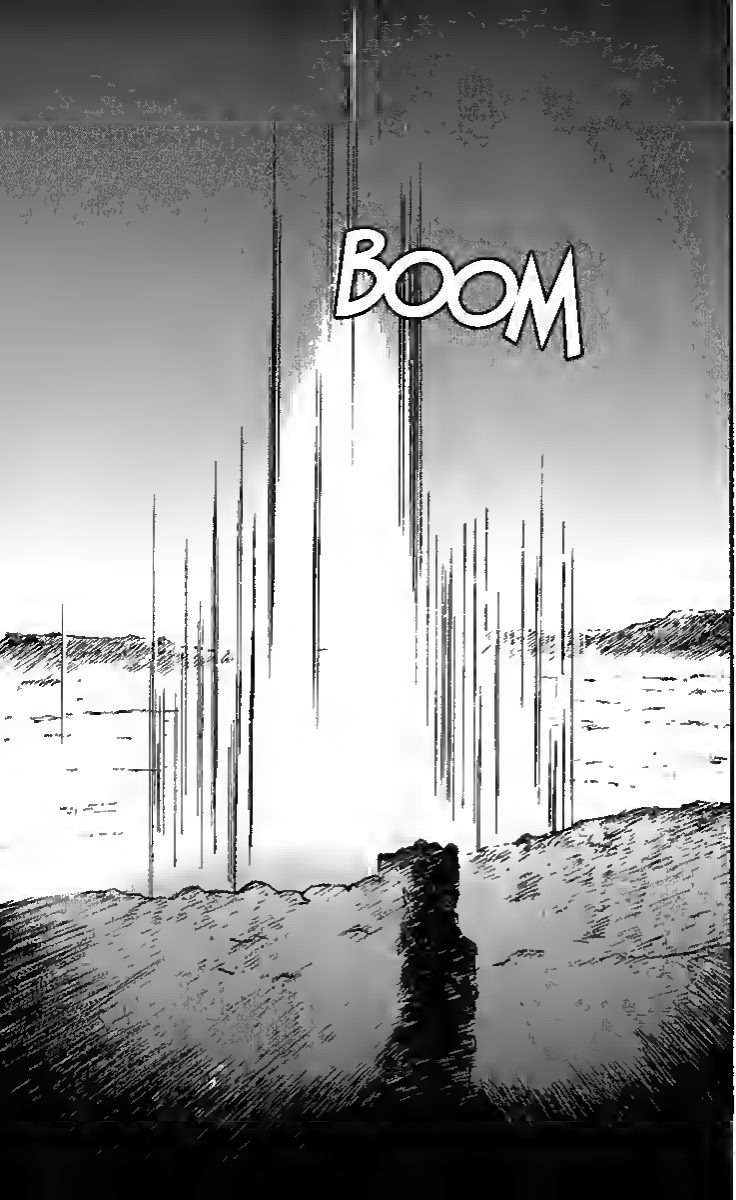
ONCE CONTAMINATED, THEY COULD NOT BE SAVED.

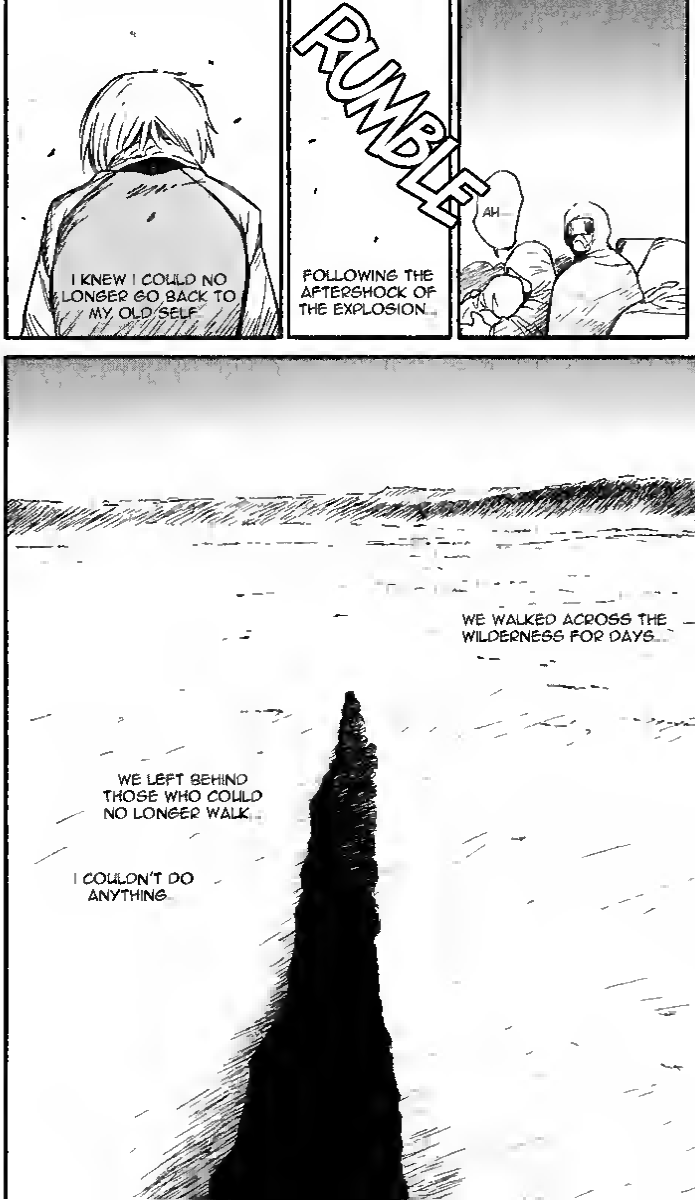
I'M SO SORRY!
I'M SO SORRY!
I'M SO SORRY!
I'M SO SORRY!
THIS IS ALL I CAN DO FOR YOU WHILE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE...
THE REST OF US WILL BE CONTAMINATED BEFORE WE CAN SAFELY EVACUATE...
TAP
YOUR CORPSES WILL FUEL THE GROWTH OF MORE CONTAMINANTS
WHILE YOU'RE ALIVE IF I DON'T DO THIS
I CAN'T TAKE THE CONTAMINATED ONES WITH ME
NOR CAN I SIMPLY LEAVE THEM BE
DROP
...WHY?
DRIP
DRIP
...WERE WEEPING...
THOSE WHOSE LIVES WERE SPARED...
HAD NOT A WORD TO SPEAK
THOSE THAT WERE WAITING TO DIE
THEY DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER LOOKING AT THE HIGH EXPLOSIVE PLACED BEFORE THEIR FEET...

WHY MUST MY CHILD AND I DIE?
THIS CHILD HAS DONE NOTHING WRONG...
...IN THIS WORLD...
WHAT HAVE WE DONE WRONG?
WHY MUST WE DIE LIKE THIS?
.....
IT HURTS ..
IT HURTS
IT HURTS
STOMP
.....
UGH .
SAVE ME ..
TAP TAP
!!
CRASH

HUFF
HUFF
RUB
RUB
ARE YOU IN PAIN?
IT'S ALRIGHT, IT'S ALRIGHT...
NO..!
I LOVE HIM.
I'M HERE WITH YOU..
DON'T BE AFRAID,
SO PLEASE
YOU MUST STAY AWAY FROM HIM
WHO IS THIS CHILD..?
HE IS THE ONE MOST PRECIOUS TO ME...

YOU MUST GET AWAY FROM HIM!
NO!!
MOVE THIS CHILD TO THE OTHER SIDE!
DON'T MAKE ME DO THIS MYSELF!
ANSWER ME
SINCE I WILL DIE ANYWAYS ...
PLEASE, ANSWER THIS ONE QUESTION...
WHY MUST THIS CHILD DIE?
.....
DRIP
DRIP
.....
PLEASE FORGIVE ME..!
MURDERER!


BOOM


I KNEW I COULD NO LONGER GO BACK TO MY OLD SELF
RUMBLE
FOLLOWING THE AFTERSHOCK OF THE EXPLOSION
AH
WE WALKED ACROSS THE WILDERNESS FOR DAYS
WE LEFT BEHIND THOSE WHO COULD NO LONGER WALK
I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING

INCOHERENT IDEAS APPEARED AND DISAPPEARED...
SOME ARTICLE FROM THE NEWS...
"NAGI" HAD CREATED THE PERFECT HUMAN WITH GENES EXTRACTED FROM THE SIXES...
AND WITH THAT, HUMANITY HAD ARRIVED AT THE FINAL JUNCTION BETWEEN HISTORY AND EVOLUTION.
ALL MY SENSES GREW NUMB. FEELING NOTHING BUT PAIN.
THE SO CALLED "PERFECT HUMAN..."
...LOOKED RATHER GLUM...
WHAT A JOKE. THE HISTORY OF HUMANITY ENDED A FEW HUNDRED YEARS AGO.!
NO SORT OF CONCLUSION COULD END THIS HELL...
HAHA...
HA...
THERE'S A FACE CONSTANTLY STARING AT ME
...THE EYES OF A PARTICULAR GIRL...
COULD SHE BE CALLED "AI-REN ?"

WHAT DETERMINES LIFE AND DEATH..?

WHAT DETERMINES WHO IS THE MURDERER AND WHO IS MURDERED?

THE ILLUSION OF AN ARTIFICIALLY CREATED HUMAN...

IT'S... STARING AT ME...

...WITH THE EYES OF THAT DEAD CHILD...

THERE ARE UNFORTUNATE DEATHS IN THE WORLD... AND FORTUNATE MURDERS...

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CRIME... NOR IS IT A MATTER OF GOOD OR EVIL... SUCH CONDITIONS ARE UNNECESSARY...

INSTEAD, IT'S SIMPLY A MATTER OF LUCK...

Everything is just a dream of some lucky child, sleeping in the security of its own bed.

EVERYTHING IS MERELY AN EXCUSE...

JUSTICE...
LOGIC...
THE VALUE OF LIFE...
EQUALITY...
FREEDOM...
PEACE...
HAPPINESS...
HOPE...
GLORY...

EVERYTHING IS SIMPLY AN ILLUSION...

AN ILLUSION AS POWERLESS AND FRAGILE AS THE LOVE OF AN AI-REN

the murdered ones...

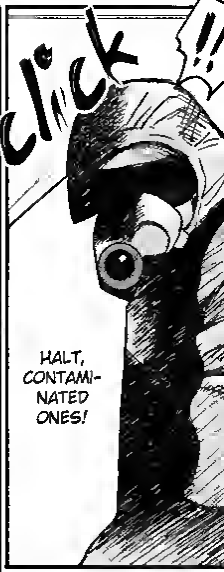
cannot dream.

The world is made of
murderers' dreams.

WHEN WE FINALLY REACHED THE BLOCKADE ALONG THE COAST, OUR NUMBERS HAD BEEN REDUCED TO ROUGHLY HALF.

HEY!
WE'RE SAVED!

WE'RE NOT CONTAMINATED! WE THOROUGHLY CHECKED OURSELVES!
NO!
PLEASE! SAVE US!


click
!!
HALT, CONTAMI-NATED ONES!

WE RECEIVED REPORTS OF A GROUP THAT'S BEEN SPREADING POLLUTANTS!
IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR GROUP!
AH...
UGH...

AH...
WHA?
SWAP

!!
DON'T YOU DARE MOVE!
WE WILL ELIMINATE THE CONTAMINATED!

BEGIN DECONTAMI-NATION!
I REPEAT,
IF YOU IGNORE THIS WARNING,
WE WILL SHOOT!
?
!?
AH...

IT WAS NO ILLUSION...

A SMALL BODY CHARGING TOWARDS THE GUNFIRE...

AH...

SHE LED ME UP THE HILL...
KMERR WAS GENTLY SMILING AT ME...
MY ARMS, LEGS, AND BODY WERE BACK IN ONE PIECE...
WHEN I OPENED MY EYES, I FOUND MYSELF IN A BEAUTIFUL FIELD...
THE SKY WAS... BLUE...
...I MET HIM AGAIN...
UNDER THE BLUE SKY, BLUE ENOUGH TO BRING TEARS TO MY EYES...

[Chapter 29 / End]

WELL THIS WAS SOMETHING OF A MORBID CHAPTER. I MISS AI ;_; I MISS HER CUTE SMILE, ALL HER CUTE LITTLE MANNERISMS, ETC ETC. ON THE PLUS SIDE, FOR ANY OF YOU WHO DIDN'T THINK SO BEFORE (I'VE THOUGHT SO FOR AWHILE), CAMELO CARELEN IS A VERIFIABLE FOX. YUM. ANYHOO, NICE LONG FLASHBACK CHAPTER, AND MAYBE WE'LL GET AN IDEA OF HOW THE TWO STORYLINES FIT TOGETHER SOON.

-POOKIE

MY WATCH READS "3:33 AM". I AM FULLY AWAKE AND RESISTING URGE TO PULL MY HAIR OUT. IF I EVER READ SOMETHING I WROTE DURING MY JR. HIGH SCHOOL YEARS, I PROBABLY WOULD BE AMAZED TO KNOW THAT I ONCE USED TECHNICAL TERMS WITH EASE. TEEHEE. I FROM THE PAST WOULD'VE NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD BE TRANSLATING COMICS IN ENGLISH EITHER. AFTERALL, I WAS BUSY DAYDREAMING AND THINKING ABOUT SKIPPING CLEANING DUTY (SHAME ON ME ^^;)

-BIGVINNY

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KOREAN MANWHA TRANSLATIONS
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-=Ai-Ren v04 c28=-
Raws: USC_Gamecocks
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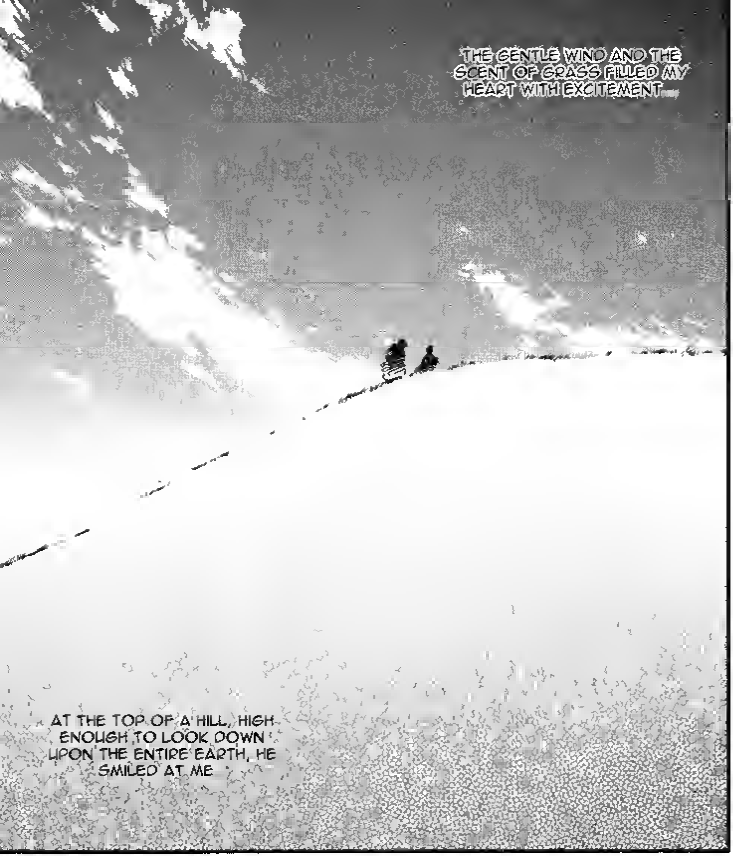
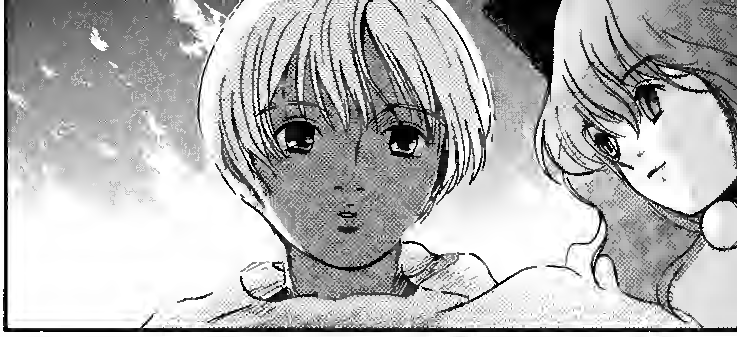
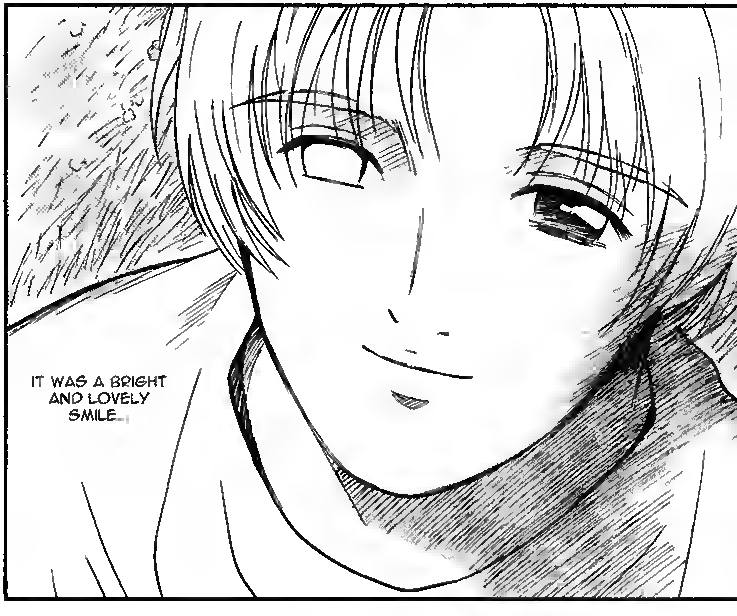

THE GENTLE WIND AND THE SCENT OF GRASS FILLED MY HEART WITH EXCITEMENT...
AT THE TOP OF A HILL, HIGH ENOUGH TO LOOK DOWN UPON THE ENTIRE EARTH, HE SMILED AT ME

愛人 [AI-REN]

Chapter 30. Birth

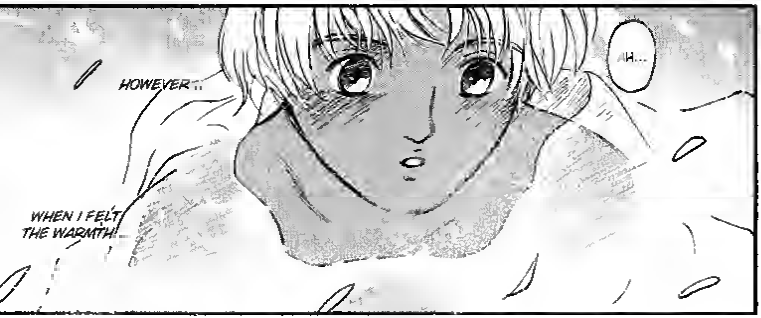




I ALREADY KNEW HIS TRUE IDENTITY.

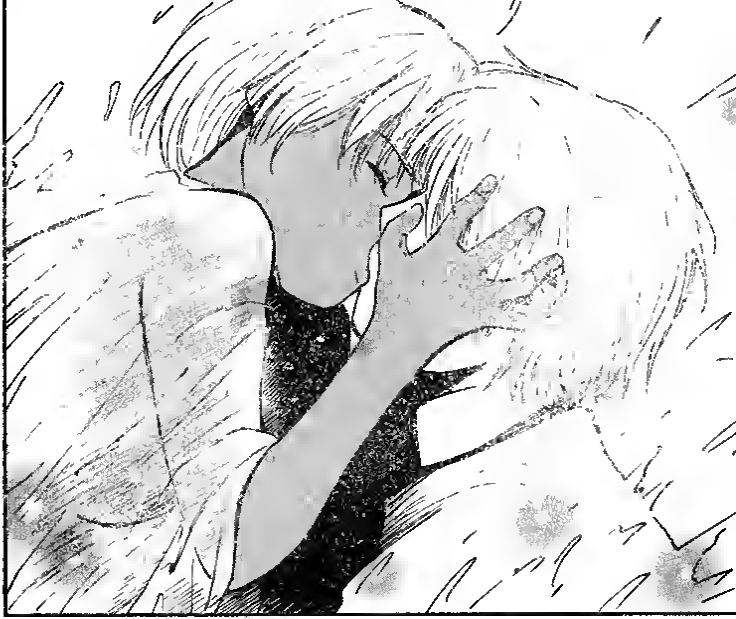
HITO IS NEITHER A THREAT NOR A SOURCE OF HOPE FOR HUMANITY...

AS IF IT NEVER EXISTED IN THE FIRST PLACE



...WITHOUT HESITATION.
AH...
I FELT EVERYTHING INSIDE ME SUDDENLY JUST MELT AWAY
AH...
AH...

I COULD NO LONGER CONTAIN
MY EMOTIONS



I BECAME LIKE A CHILD
LIKE AN ANIMAL...
LIKE SOME ORGANISM...

MY EYES WERE
FILLED WITH
TEARS...

WRAPPED IN MY FEELINGS OF NOSTALGIA,
A SENSE OF SECURITY I HAD NEVER FELT BEFORE,
I CRIED OUT LOUD...

EVEN THOUGH I ALREADY KNEW...

...THAT HE NEVER EXISTED
IN THE FIRST PLACE.

A few weeks ago a warship docked at the South Pole Earth Port

MY NAME IS CAMELO CARELEN SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE IASH
I MUST THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THE WAY HERE...
There was a person invited to the secret meeting

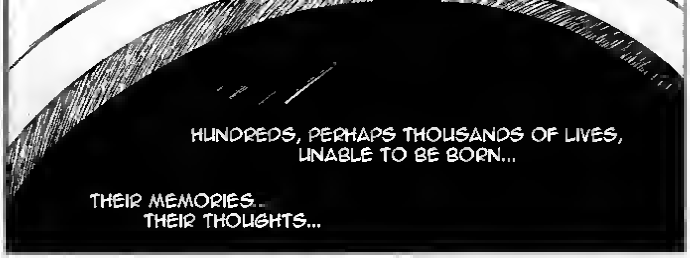
IT'S BEEN AWHILE...
...SINCE I LAST SAW SNOW FALLING...

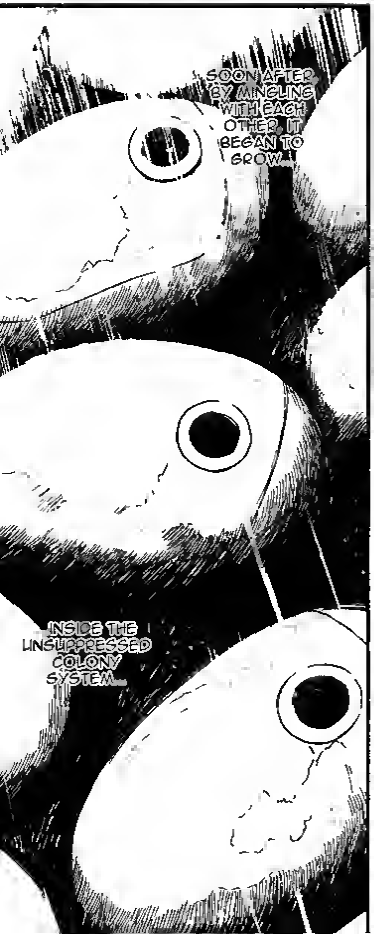
NAGI HARUKA
THE CURRENT REPRESENTATIVE OF "NAGI" WAS A FEMALE SIXES.

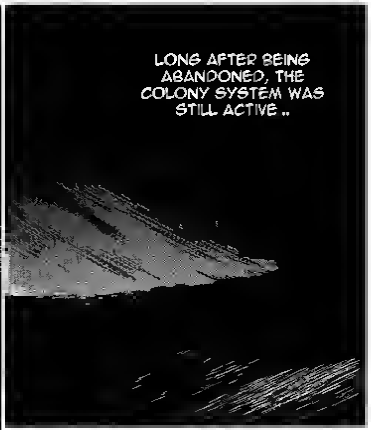
NEW HUMANS...
THE BIRTH OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF HUMANITY...
UNOFFICIALLY... NAGI'S REPRESENTATIVE IS THE MOST CAREFULLY MONITORED PERSON BY THE INTERNATIONAL COALITION...
THE FINAL WISH OF NAGI WAS...
AN UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE FUTURE...
.....
AND THE END OF THE CURRENT GENERATION...
BY THE NAME OF NAGI HARUKA...
BEFORE MY EYES WAS A SIXES, THOSE WHO/WERE CLOSEST TO HIM...
SO, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO SAY?

I'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT...
NOTHING MORE NOTHING LESS
OKAY...
IT'S ABOUT A GROUP KNOWN AS HITO..
IT TOOK QUITE A BIT OF TIME, BUT...
...WE ARE CLOSE TO DETERMINING THEIR IDENTITY...
BY REQUEST OF THE "PERFECT HUMAN" TEA AND SWEETS WERE SERVED...
THE SOUTH POLE'S SPECIALTY, SNOW WHITE CAKE
MANY STILL BELIEVE THAT HITO IS FROM AN ADVANCED ALIEN CIVILIZATION...
BUT THAT ASSUMPTION IS FALSE
THAT HITO DOES NOT ACTUALLY EXIST
...AND YOU, MISS HARUKA
THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW THE TRUE IDENTITY OF HITO...
...ARE PROBABLY THOSE AROUND ME ON THIS WARSHIP.

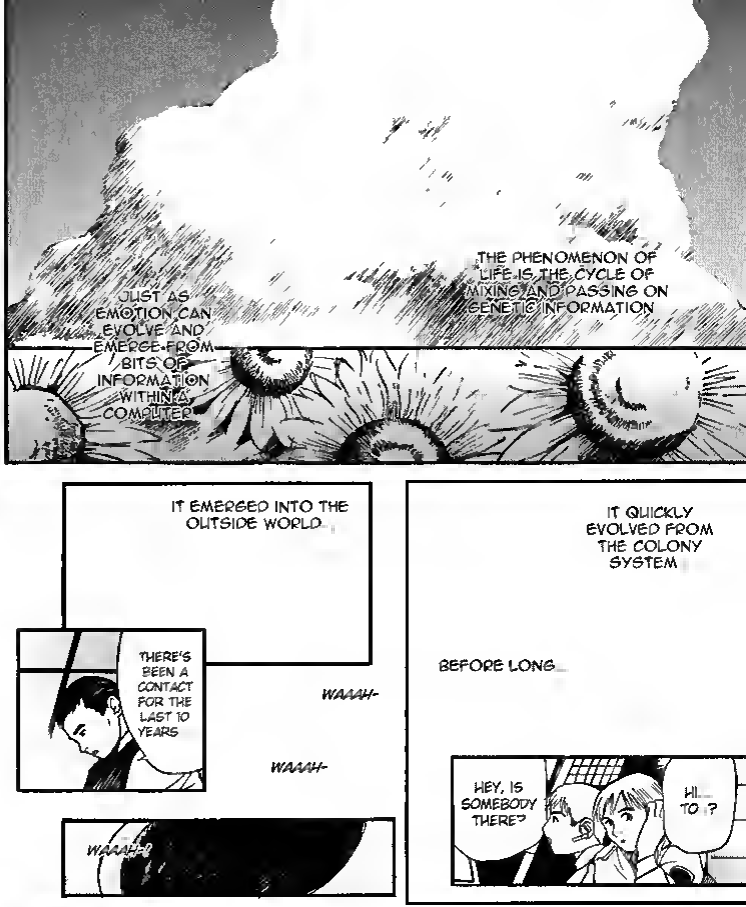
.....
THERE IS NO SUBSTANCE TO HITO...
...SINCE THEY NEVER EXISTED IN THIS WORLD...
IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WAS ONE FROM NAGI COLONY...
THOSE WHO COULD NOT BECOME A NEW HUMAN...
COUNTLESS LIVES NEVER GIVEN A FUTURE


HUNDREDS, PERHAPS THOUSANDS OF LIVES, UNABLE TO BE BORN...
THEIR MEMORIES... THEIR THOUGHTS...

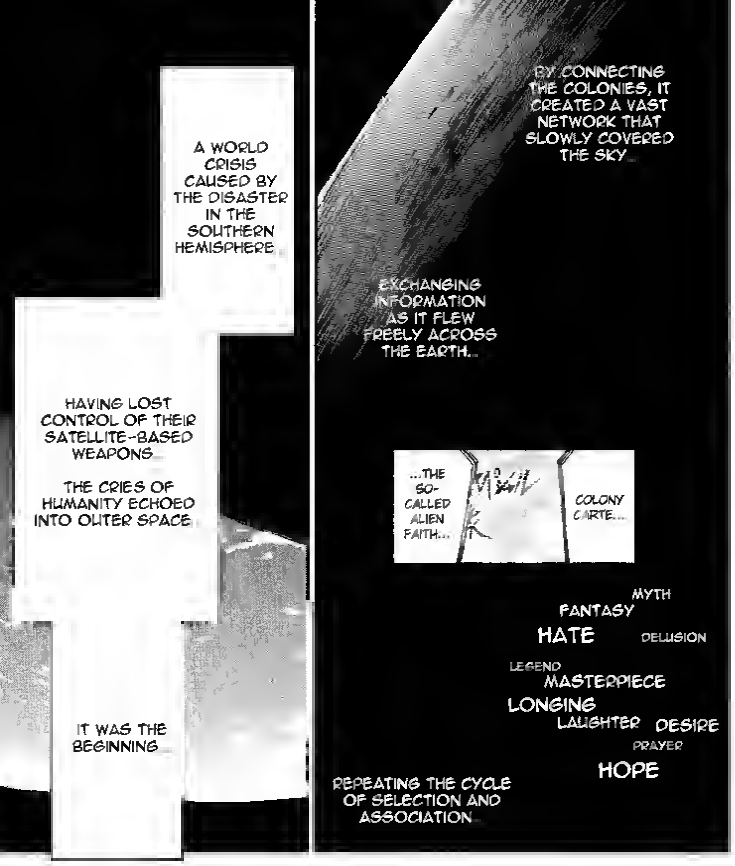

SOON AFTER, BY MINGLING WITH EACH OTHER, IT BEGAN TO GROW...!
INSIDE THE UNSUPPRESSED COLONY SYSTEM...


LONG AFTER BEING ABANDONED, THE COLONY SYSTEM WAS STILL ACTIVE..

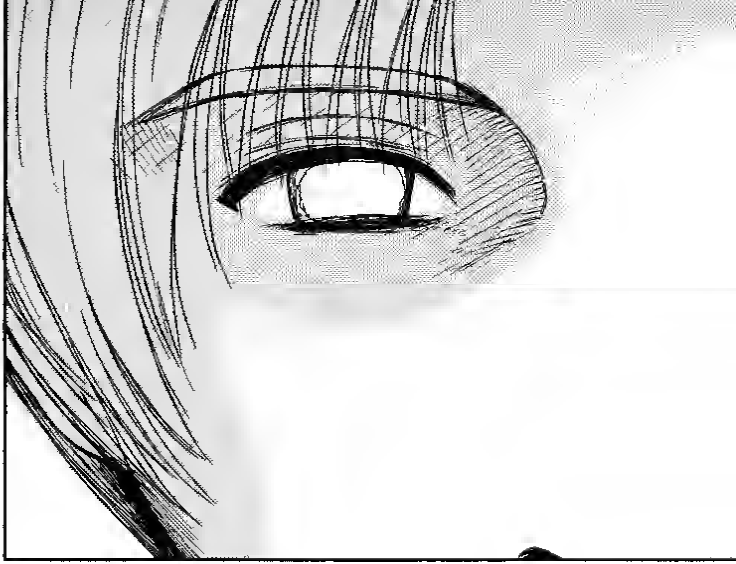
CONSTANTLY EVOKING MEMORIES OF THOSE SACRIFICED...


JUST AS EMOTION CAN EVOLVE AND EMERGE FROM BITS OF INFORMATION WITHIN A COMPUTER
THE PHENOMENON OF LIFE IS THE CYCLE OF MIXING AND PASSING ON GENETIC INFORMATION
IT EMERGED INTO THE OUTSIDE WORLD
THERE'S BEEN A CONTACT FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS
WAAAH-
WAAAH-
WAAAH-!!
IT QUICKLY EVOLVED FROM THE COLONY SYSTEM
BEFORE LONG
HEY, IS SOMEBODY THERE?
HI... TO...?

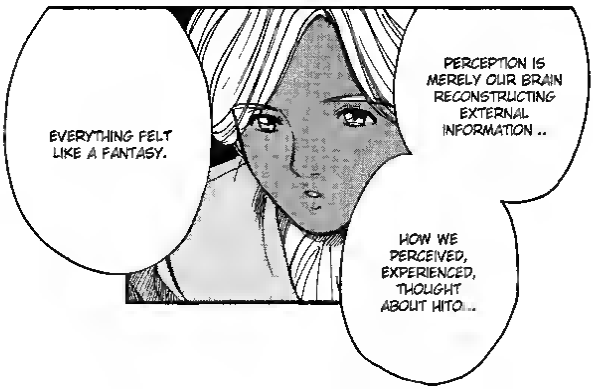
I AM ALIVE.



AN ERA OF UNPRECEDENTED INTERVENTION HAD BEGUN.



PLEASE THINK OF WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU REALLY ARE...


EVERYTHING FELT LIKE A FANTASY.
PERCEPTION IS MERELY OUR BRAIN RECONSTRUCTING EXTERNAL INFORMATION ..
HOW WE PERCEIVED, EXPERIENCED, THOUGHT ABOUT HITO...

IT WAS ALL THE DREAMS THEY DREAMT.
ONES, AND THOSE NEVER TO BE BORN...
THE TESTAMENT OF THOSE UNABLE TO PASS IT ON THEMSELVES...

WE TRIED TO HIDE IT WHEN HITO FIRST APPEARED, BUT THE PUBLIC FOUND OUT SOON ENOUGH...
SOME WERE OVERJOYED, CALLING IT OUR SAVIOR, WHILE OTHERS FEARED THE COMING OF ARMAGEDDON...
ALL BECAUSE IT WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM US...
BUT THAT WAS NOT THE CASE...
AS KILIT EXPLAINED TO ME, HITO ISN'T SPECIAL...
RATHER, A SORT OF COLLECTIVE CONCIOUSNESS OF OUR IMAGINATION AND MEMORIES...
TO USE AN OLD TERM,
A "GHOST," EMBEDDED IN THE EARTH.
HUMANITY WOULD PROBABLY PERISH ALONE,
WITHOUT EVER MEETING ANOTHER RACE...
THERE'S SOMETHING...
...THAT I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU...
.....

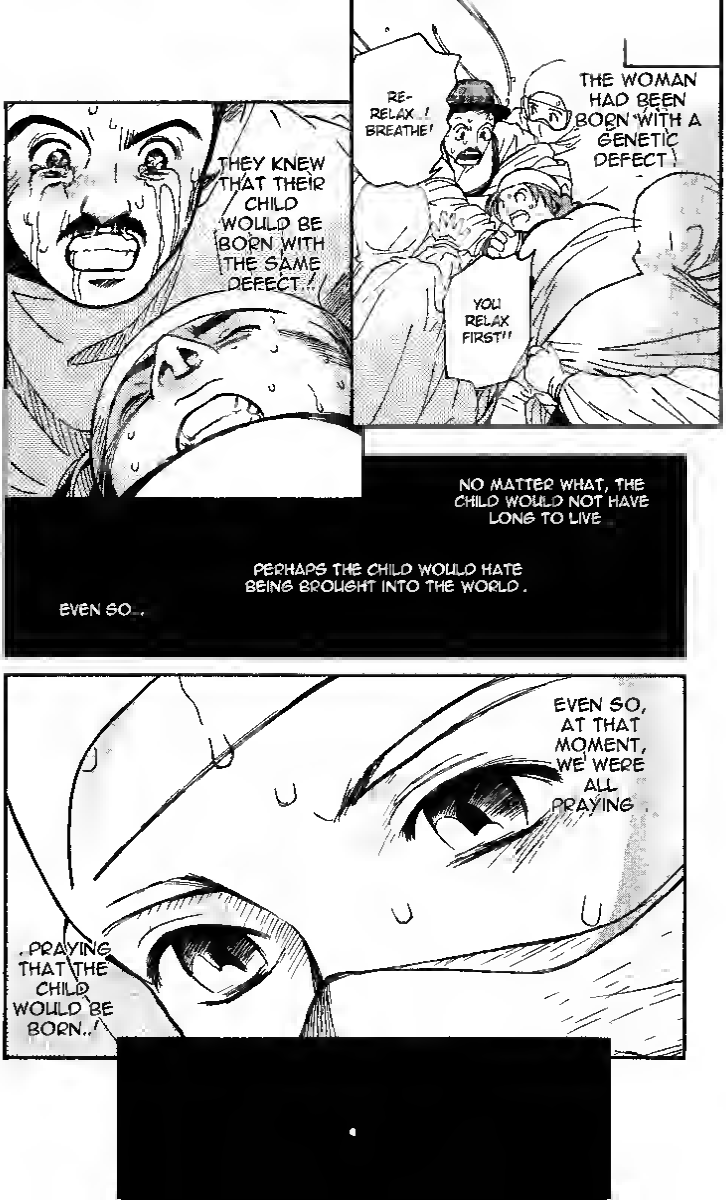
WHAT COURSE OF ACTION WOULD YOU SUGGEST...

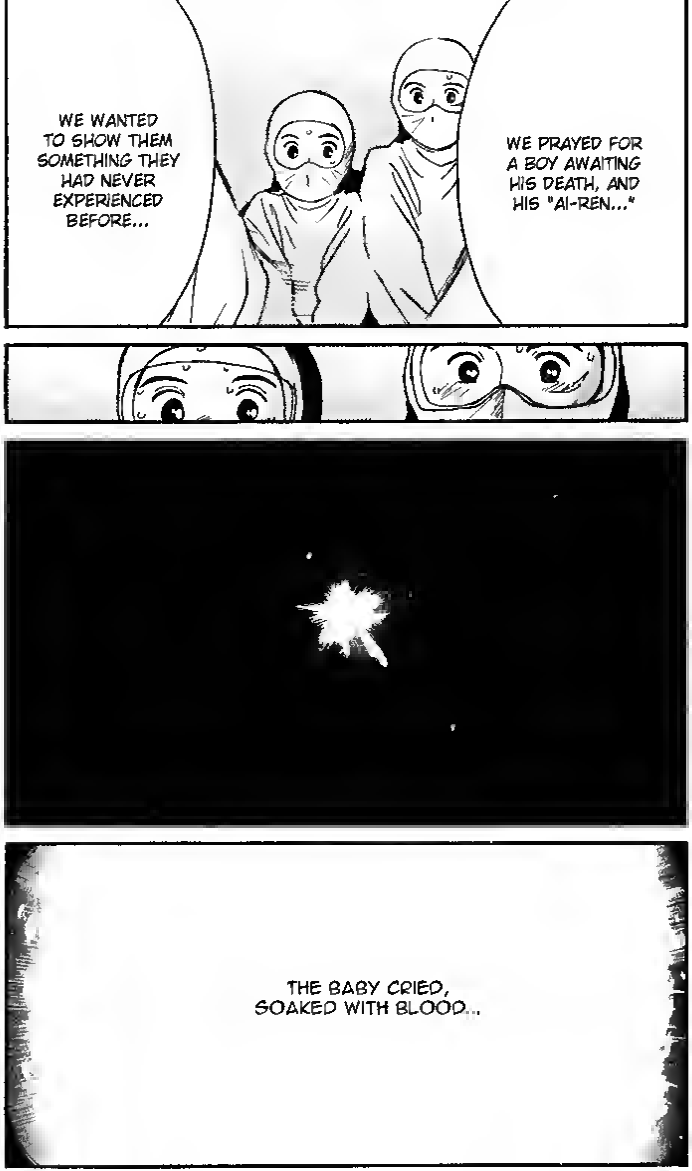
...IF YOU DISCOVERED...

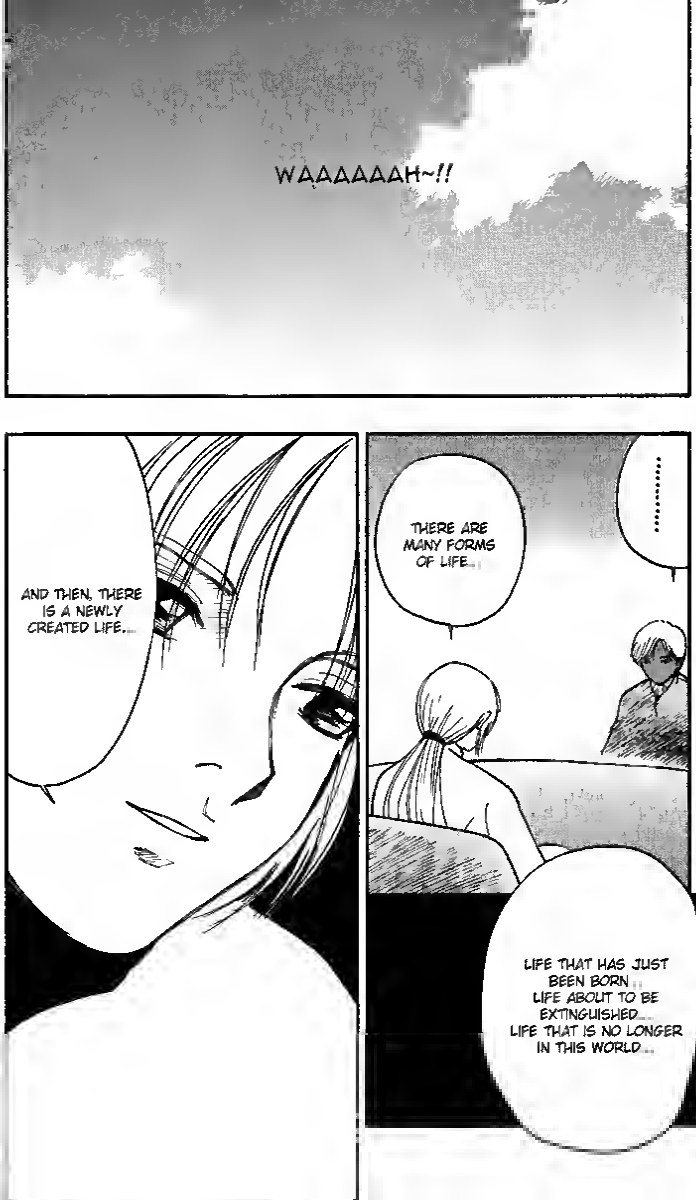
...THAT THERE IS NEITHER FEAR NOR HOPE AWAITING US IN THE FUTURE...

...THAT EVERYTHING IS BUT A DISTANT DREAM...

...NAGI HARUKA-SENSEI?
WHAT WOULD YOU THINK OF THAT, "ULTIMATE FORM OF HUMANITY..."
.....
A FEW DAYS AGO
?
A WOMAN GAVE BIRTH TO HER CHILD AT MY HOME.
FOR VARIOUS REASONS, SHE CHOSE A NATURAL CHILDBIRTH, UNLIKE MOST TODAY...


THE WOMAN HAD BEEN BORN WITH A GENETIC DEFECT!
RE- RELAX..! BREATHE!
YOU RELAX FIRST!!
THEY KNEW THAT THEIR CHILD WOULD BE BORN WITH THE SAME DEFECT..!
NO MATTER WHAT, THE CHILD WOULD NOT HAVE LONG TO LIVE.
PERHAPS THE CHILD WOULD HATE BEING BROUGHT INTO THE WORLD.
EVEN SO..
EVEN SO, AT THAT MOMENT, WE WERE ALL PRAYING.
..PRAYING THAT THE CHILD WOULD BE BORN..!


WE WANTED TO SHOW THEM SOMETHING THEY HAD NEVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE...
WE PRAYED FOR A BOY AWAITING HIS DEATH, AND HIS "AI-REN..."
THE BABY CRIED, SOAKED WITH BLOOD...


WAAAAAAH~!!
AND THEN, THERE IS A NEWLY CREATED LIFE...
THERE ARE MANY FORMS OF LIFE...
.....
LIFE THAT HAS JUST BEEN BORN...
LIFE ABOUT TO BE EXTINGUISHED...
LIFE THAT IS NO LONGER IN THIS WORLD...

I WILL LIVE THIS LONG LIFE IN MY OWN WAY,
I AM PREPARED TO FACE ANY CONSE-QUENCES...
PERHAPS IT IS ALL THE SAME...
THE SIXES LOOKED BOTH H PY AND S D...
THEN... IS THAT YOUR ANSWER?
PLEASE GIVE MY REGARDS TO YOUR FAMILY.
I HAVE FOUND SOMETHING THAT IS A NECESSITY..
TO FACE THE TRIALS OF OUR TIME...
TAP

LAYING MY HEAD UPON KILIT'S LEGS.
GENTLY ROCKING HIS KNEES
HIS SMILING FACE REMINDED ME...
OF A WORD LONG LOST FROM MY MIND...
"SENSUAL..."
AND THEN, HE TOLD ME...
KILIT ASKED ME AS HE SMILED...
WITH A SMILE ON MY FACE, I ANSWERED "YES."
"DO YOU KNOW ME?"

Don't worry, this is neither dream nor fantasy.

OK, SO AS YOU CAN TELL BY VINNY'S TRANSLATOR'S COMMENTS THIS CHAPTER WAS TRANSLATED A LOOOOOOOOOOOONG TIME AGO. BUT BETWEEN FINALS AND OTHER DISTRACTIONS, I'VE BEEN A BIT BUSY (HAVEN'T DONE ANY EDITING FOR ABOUT A MONTH NOW). WELL, FINALLY DONE WITH THE SEMESTER, SO HERE IT IS, THE LONG AWAITED AIREN 30

-POOKIE

RIGHT... THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A THANKSGIVING SPECIAL, WHICH HAS GONE HORRIBLY WRONG (MUCH LIKE MY GRADE, I'M AFRAID). IN THE END, IT COULDN'T EVEN MEET THE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL DEADLINE. WELL, BOTH POOKIE AND I HAD TO GO THROUGH FINAL EXAMS, AND WITH ME ON SHORTER ONLINE HOURS, WHAT CAN I SAY? THANKS TO JETC-'S INSPIRATION (DON'T ASK) CHAPTER 30 IS FINALLY HERE. ENJOY! (IKURU AND AI WILL BE BACK SOON, REALLY!)

-BIGVINNY

SOLARIS

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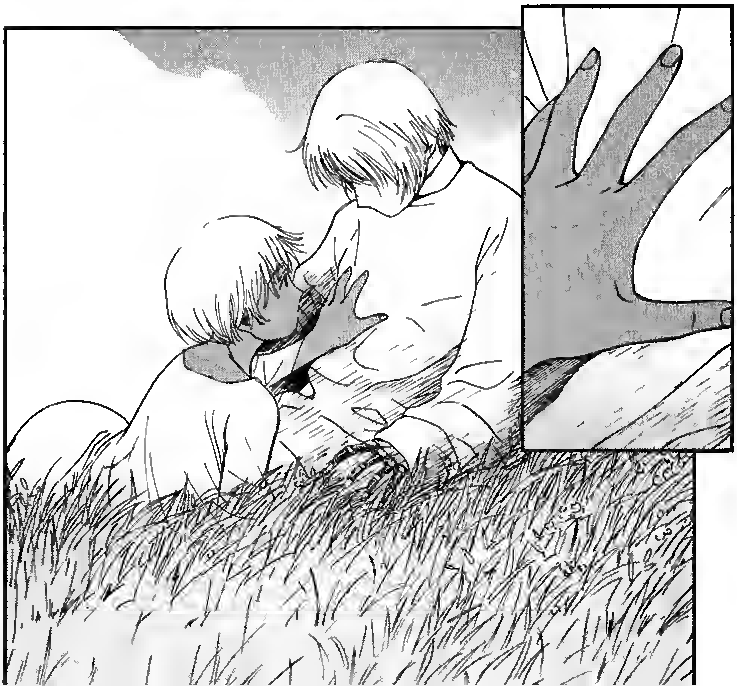
-=Ai-Ren v04 c30=-
Raws: USC_Gamecocks
Translator: BigVinny
Editor: pOOkie

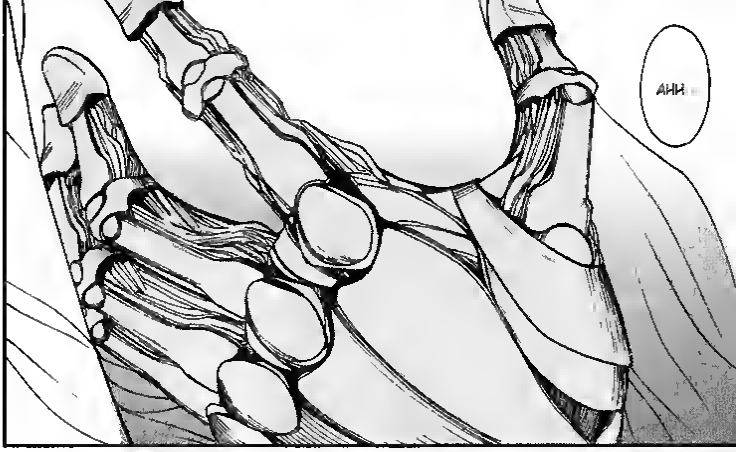
SOLARIS-SUV 2005

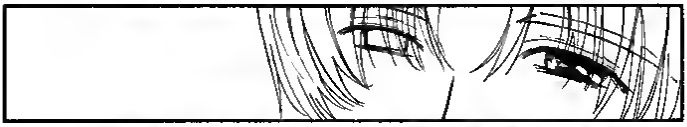
Chapter 31. Stand By Me

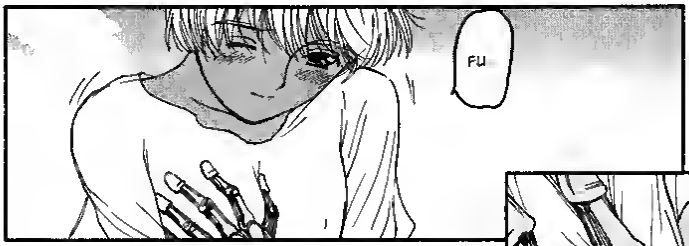
愛人 [AI REN]

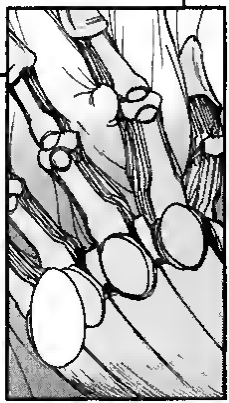


AH









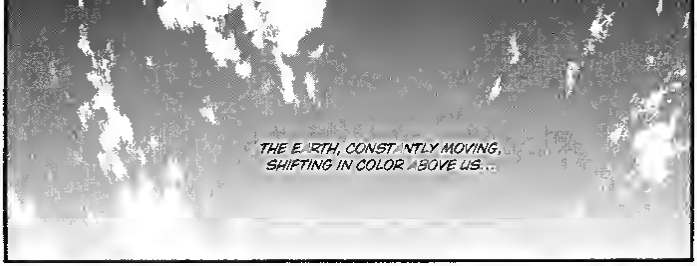
THE SWEET FEELING OF FIRST ECSTACY
BEGAN TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT MY BODY..

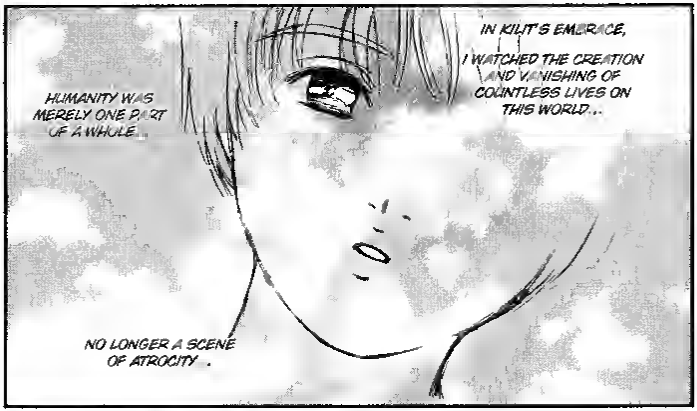
A FEELING OF HAPPINESS TO VALIDATE LIFE..

AHH...
HE IS HERE...WITHOUT A DOUBT...

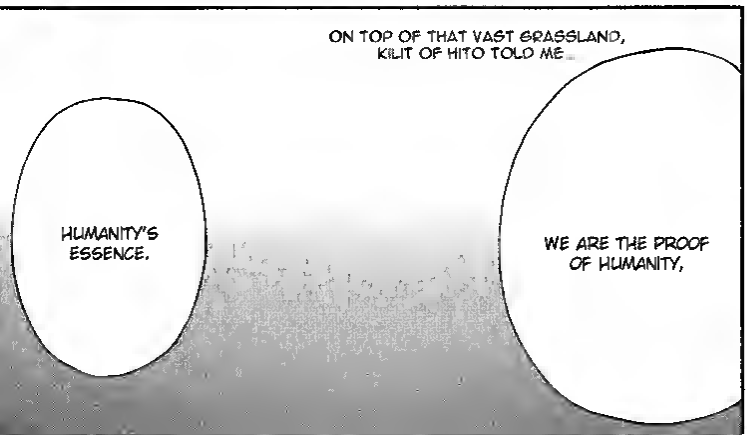
WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR AS LONG AS HUMANS ARE AS THEY ARE NOW...
...WE ARE A PART OF YOU...
WE WERE WITH HUMANITY WHEN THEY DISCOVERED "DEATH" AND "LIFE..."
WE WERE DISCOVERING THEM ALONGSIDE HUMANITY...

ANY CIVILIZATION, ANY RACE, REGARDLESS OF TIME...
WE HAVE ALWAYS EXISTED.
WEAK, STRONG...
POOR, WEALTHY...
TO EVERYONE...
.....
EVEN WHEN SOMEONE IS MURDERED,
WE WERE THERE, TOGETHER
PAT
GRIN
TEARS SWELLED UP!
I BEGAN TO STARE AT THE SKY...




IN KILI'S EMBRACE,
I WATCHED THE CREATION AND VANISHING OF COUNTLESS LIVES ON THIS WORLD...
HUMANITY WAS MERELY ONE PART OF A WHOLE...
NO LONGER A SCENE OF ATROCITY...

It was a peaceful scenery, filled with happiness



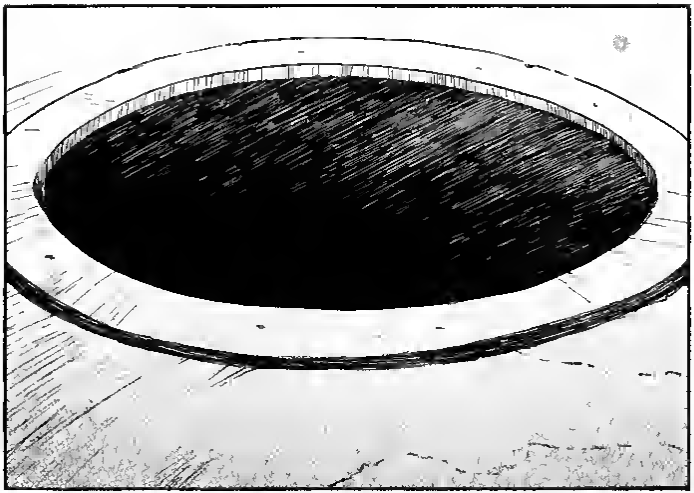
YOU ARE "MURDERER'S DREAM,"
I FINALLY REALIZED WHO YOU ARE
.....
THE DREAM ITSELF.

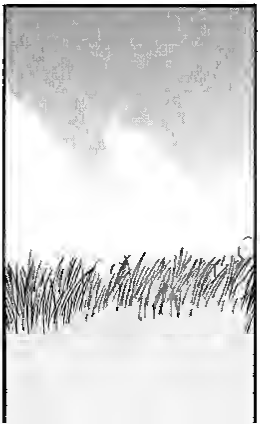
INSTEAD OF ANSWERING, KILIT MERELY SMILED HE HAD A VERY GENTLE FACE.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU PRAY, HUMANITY CANNOT SAVE ITSELF.
NOR IS THERE ANYONE WHO CAN FORGIVE THE SINS THAT HAVE BEEN COMMITTED.
I CANNOT UNDO WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE IN THIS WORLD.
TEARS THAT WERE SHED, BLOOD YET TO BE SPILLED...
...THERE ARE NONE
METHODS OF ATONEMENT...
THAT IS "REALITY..." THAT IS "HUMAN."
AS YOU ALREADY KNOW,
.....!!
BUT,
...I WILL FORGIVE YOU.
I, THE FANTASY WITHIN THE DREAM.

YOU...
...DESERVE TO LIVE
NO,
A PARODY OF GOD...
A GHOST...
YOU ARE... JUST LIKE AI-REN...
ARTIFICIALLY CREATED, UNABLE TO PROVIDE SALVATION...
YET... STILL ABLE TO LOVE US..

...AN AI-REN FOR HUMANITY.

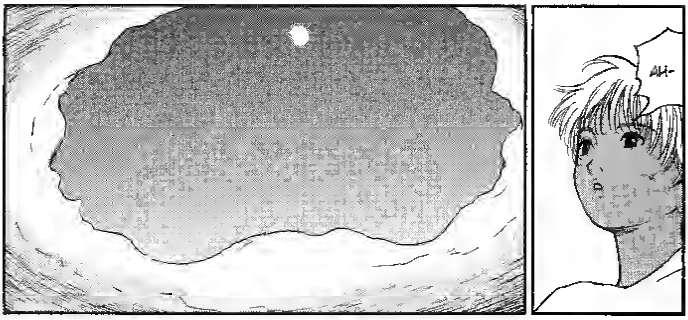




BEFORE I HAD NOTICED, THE GRASSLAND WAS FILLED WITH PEOPLE...
MANY OF THEM LOOKED FAMILIAR...
.....
THE IMAGES OF THE DEAD...

AI-REN?!
WAS ONCE USED TO PREPARE MEALS FOR THE HAPPY COUPLE
AH... THAT BLOOD-STAINED KNIFE...

AH
WHAT IS THIS LIGHT..?
!!
AH!
AHH..!!



SUDDENLY, I RETURNED TO MY SENSES.

WHAT TIME IS IT?
WHERE AM I?

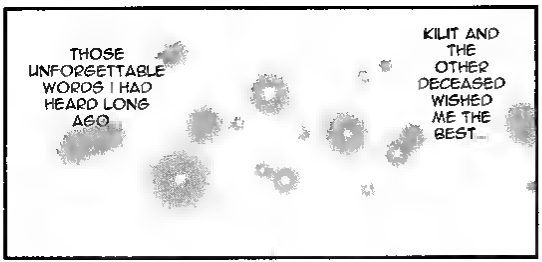
Before my eyes, a child is about to be incinerated...

THIS IS NOT WHERE I AM SUPPOSED TO BE...

THE VERY FIRST PERSON I HAD EVER KILLED.
THE SMALL GUN I HAD USED
A MAN STEPPED TOWARDS ME!!
I WAS A BIT IRRITATED BY KILI'S GENTLE SMILE
.....
A CHILD IS ABOUT TO BE INCINERATED BEFORE MY VERY EYES
THERE IS ONLY ONE THING TO DO...

I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOON...
KILIT, GOODBYE

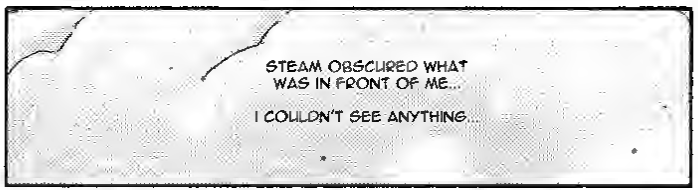
OKAY,
UNTIL THEN...

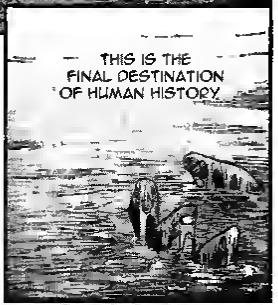

KILIT AND THE OTHER DECEASED WISHED ME THE BEST...
THOSE UNFORGETTABLE WORDS I HAD HEARD LONG AGO
YES, THIS IS HOW HUMANS ARE BORN...

Happy
Birthday!

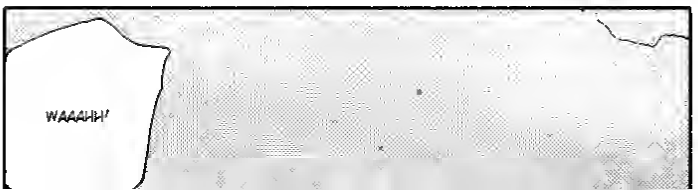
KA KA KA KA
BOOM

IT WAS A MIRACLE...
THE SATELLITE LASER ATTACK WAS NOT ENOUGH...
WAS THAT A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FROM KILIT...?
INSTEAD OF EVAPORATING, MY BODY WAS TOSSED INTO THE STEAMING SEA...
IN THE DISTANCE...
...A CHILD WAS CRYING.

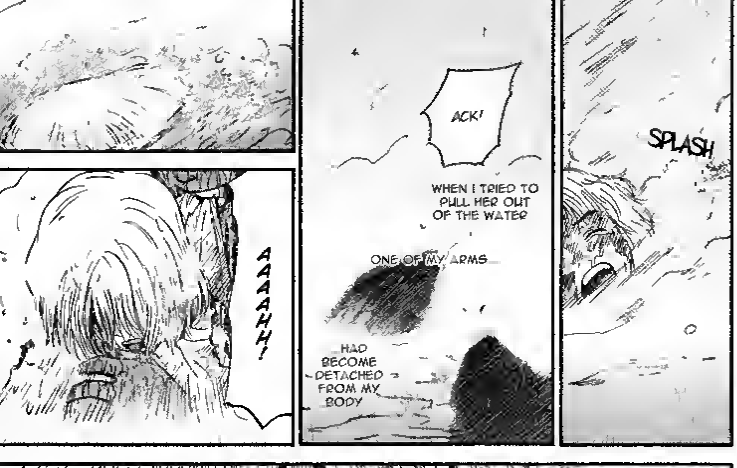




THE THOUGHTS OF A HELPLESS HUMAN BEING

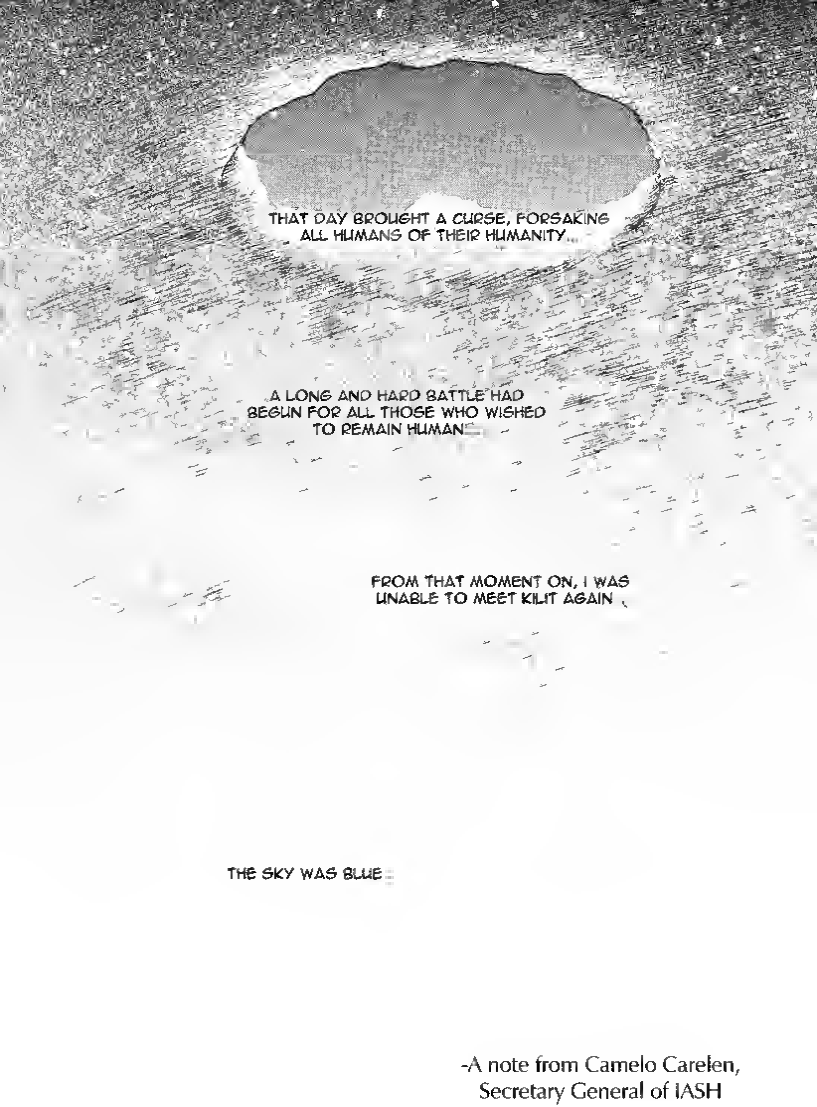


WAAAH!
HUH-
HAAH-
HAA-
AAAH!
AAHH!
AHHHH!!
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S ALL A HELPLESS FANTASY...
I WILL STAY ALIVE, UNTIL THE END...
I HAVE BECOME AN AI-REN OF THIS WORLD.



THE CHILD ASKED,

"...GOD?"


THAT DAY BROUGHT A CURSE, FORSAKING ALL HUMANS OF THEIR HUMANITY...
A LONG AND HARD BATTLE HAD BEGUN FOR ALL THOSE WHO WISHED TO REMAIN HUMAN...
FROM THAT MOMENT ON, I WAS UNABLE TO MEET KILIT AGAIN.
THE SKY WAS BLUE.

-A note from Camelo Carelen,
Secretary General of IASH

THAT CHAPTER MAKES POOKIE SAD POOR CAMELO ;_;

POOKIE WANTS HAPPY ENDING FOR ALL @_@

IF I RECALL, THIS IS THE LAST CHAPTER OF THE KOR. VERSION OF VOL4, WHICH MEANS IT MIGHT BE AWHILE BEFORE THE NEXT CHAP. IT'S TOO BAD TOO, THE NEXT CHAPTER FINALLY FEATURES THE RETURN OF OUR BELOVED AI (AND IKURU), ALTHOUGH THE FIRST FEW PAGES MIGHT MAKE U FEEL DIRTY READING IT. ANYWAYS, ENJOY THE CHAPTER.

-POOKIE

JINX! GIMME THE VOLUME 5 RAW, NOW!!! AHEM. (PUTTING HIMSELF TOGETHER) I THANK ALL THE READERS FOR HAVING PATIENCE WITH ME. (OR NOT?) A SIDE NOTE, TANAKA YUTAKA'S NEW SERIES WILL BE OUT IN KODANSHA'S AFTERNOON MAGAZINE (YES, IT MEANS NO H-MANGA. PERVS AA) ON AN UNRELATED ISSUE, FIND ME TLER AND EDITOR FOR AQUA AND EXPECT SOME DELAY BEFORE THE NEXT CHAPTER OF AIREN.

-BIGVINNY

SOLARIS
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-=Ai-Ren v04 c31=-
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愛人 [AI REN]

Chapter 32. The Body's Song

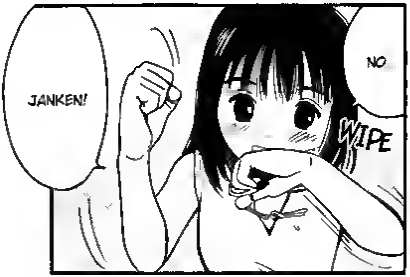
MMM...
♡
MM...
DO YOU GIVE UP, IKURU?
NOPE

HMM, YOU'RE PRETTY STUBBORN...
I WON'T GIVE UP SO EASILY...
WE'RE BEING RATHER AFFECTIONATE...
WE PLAYED JANKEN, AND THE WINNER COULD DO WHATEVER THEY WANTED TO THE LOSER...
WHY YOU !
SCRATCH
AHH-
SCRATCH

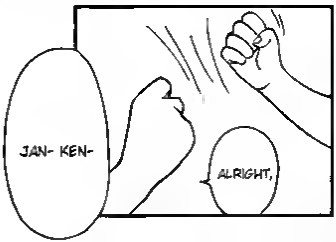
OH,
SU-
AI'S PRECIOUS ...
I'M WRITING MY NAME.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO THIS TIME?
...HEART ♡
AHM

mwa-
AH-
mwa-
mwa-
OOH,
OH-

mwah mua
mwa
mwa
chu chu
chu- chu-


JANKEN!
NO
WIPE

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME WE SWITCHED?
HEY, AI...


JAN- KEN-
ALRIGHT,

FACE DOWN?
LOOK! SWITCH, SWITCH!
.....
FACE UP!
spin
AND ALSO...!
FWIP
EH?!

COME ON, FACE UP!
WAIT, WAIT!
NOT MY BELLY, NOT MY BELLY, OKAY?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
YOU DON'T GET A CHOICE..!
GRAB
AH-
NOW, IT'S MY TURN!
HIIII-!
POP
POP

HYAN~
SU-
rustle
TICKLE
TICKLE
NEVER?
NOPE. NEVER.
THUMP THUMP
OH? GIVING UP ALREADY?
FUFUFU-
tingle

KUKUKU-
POKE
POKE
STILL HANGING IN THERE, HUH? NOT GIVING IN? ♡
AI'S BELLY IS REALLY SMOOTH...
MM-
A...
MMM
KISS
KISS

YOUR EAR... ♡
turn
HERE
MM...

RECENTLY, I DISCOVERED
WHENEVER I LICKED HER EAR, AI WOULD GO QUIET, HER BODY BECOMING COMPLETELY STILL.
CUTE, CUTE, CUTE!
AND, LAYING PERFECTLY STILL LIKE THIS, SHE'S JUST SO CUTE!

cute

RUSTLE
FUU...
I WIN' ♡
V!
HOW COME?
BE A GOOD SPORT, AND JUST SAY YOU GIVE UP ALREADY...
BU...
.....
I GIVE UP.

It seems clear that the number of casualties will continue to rise...
The IASH South Pole headquarters has taken an unprecedented amount of damage from the terrorist attack...
There is still no word on injuries or deaths, so we will repeat what we know...
We've received an update from IASH Secretary General Camelo Carelen,
Due to the breakdown of the communications network, intelligence has been in disarray.
One testimony speculates on the use of chemical weapons, questioning the humanity of the terrorists behind the attack.

FLUTTER
FLUTTER
BZZZ

WE SHOULD TAKE DOWN THE LAUNDRY SOON
BZZZ
BZZZ
YEAH

THEY'LL GET WRINKLED IF WE LEAVE THEM IN THE SUNLIGHT...
BZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ
rub rub
SO WARM, AND IT HAS A NICE SCENT...
IKURU HAS A NICE BODY...

I DON'T PARTICULARLY LIKE IT..
THIS BODY...
.....
Half of your body is not your own...
half of your body is someone else's...
TAKE THAT!
I DON'T WANT A BODY LIKE THIS!
THIS DYING BODY..!!
EH!
EH!
EH!
EH!
EH!
Not too far from now
one day
you will..

?
WHAT'S WRONG, AI?
IKURU'S BODY IS SINGING...

IT'S
WONDERFUL.

MY BODY IS TOUCHING AI'S.
AI IS LAUGHING.
kusu~
I CAN FEEL HER...
SOMETHING IRREPLACEABLE.
MY BODY HAS BECOME

IKURU...
AI'S BODY IS SINGING TOO...

HAPPY, TREMBLING WITH EXCITEMENT...
IT'S SINGING...
IKURU, "AAHN-"
THE CHORUS OF MY BODY AND AI'S, HAS BEGUN

[Chapter 32 / End]

AND I DUB THEE IKURU THE MOLESTER! t/k Ai deserves a lil lovin every now and then :)

Anyways sorry bout the delay had to snag a new ti'er, but things should be somewhat getting back on track now Enjoy >.>

-p00k

This is my first chap of Ai Ren As a translator I edited one chap way back when, and did a terrible job but I find that to be the case with all of my older edits Luckily I didn't have too many technical terms to deal with in this chapter but I'm sure those will be coming along soon enough ^.^ Anyways, I hope I'll be able to do the manga justice Yoroshiku m(_ _)m

Gari

Raw USC_Gamecocks
Translations Gari
Editing p00k
QC p00k, BigVinny, Gari

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愛人 [AI-REN]

Chapter 33. This world and I, ~We love you~

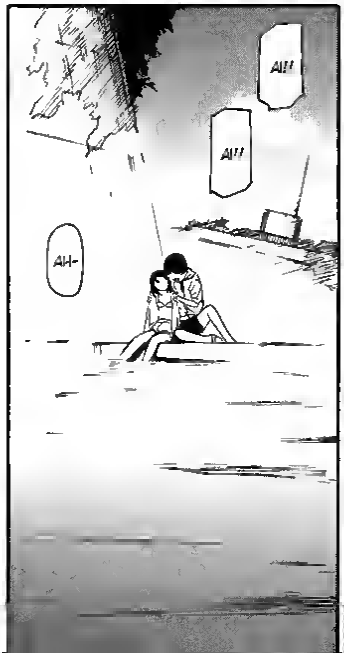
IKURU! IKURU! I CAN SEE OUR HOUSE!
OVER THERE! ♡
OH!

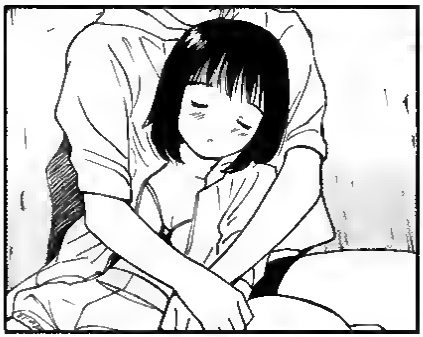
AN ISLAND CHAIN NEAR OUR HOUSE...
HEY IKURU,
WHERE DID ALL THE PEOPLE WHO USED TO LIVE HERE GO?
DUNNO,
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE THIS AREA WAS LAST OCCUPIED...
SPLISH
HOW DO YOU THINK PEOPLE LIVED THEIR DAILY LIVES BACK THEN?
OR WAS IT ALL THAT DIFFERENT FROM THE WAY IT IS NOW...
WHAT KINDS OF FUN THINGS DID THEY DO...?

OOH, WOW...
IT'S AN AIRPLANE...
FLYING PRETTY HIGH, TOO.
AH!
A SHOOTING STAR?
BUT THAT SURE IS RARE
First time I've seen it...
I WONDER IF SOMETHING IS GOING ON SOMEWHERE
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT

I REMEMBER, THERE WAS SOME BROADCAST WITH SOMEONE CRYING, SHOUTING "IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD!"
SAYING "HUMANITY IS DONE FOR..."
CHEMICAL WEAPONS SCATTERED AROUND THE WORLD...
NOBODY CAN BE SAVED...
COULD THAT HAVE BEEN FOR REAL...?
WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF THAT WAS TRUE...?
.....
Everyone will die

YOU GET WHAT YOU DESERVE.

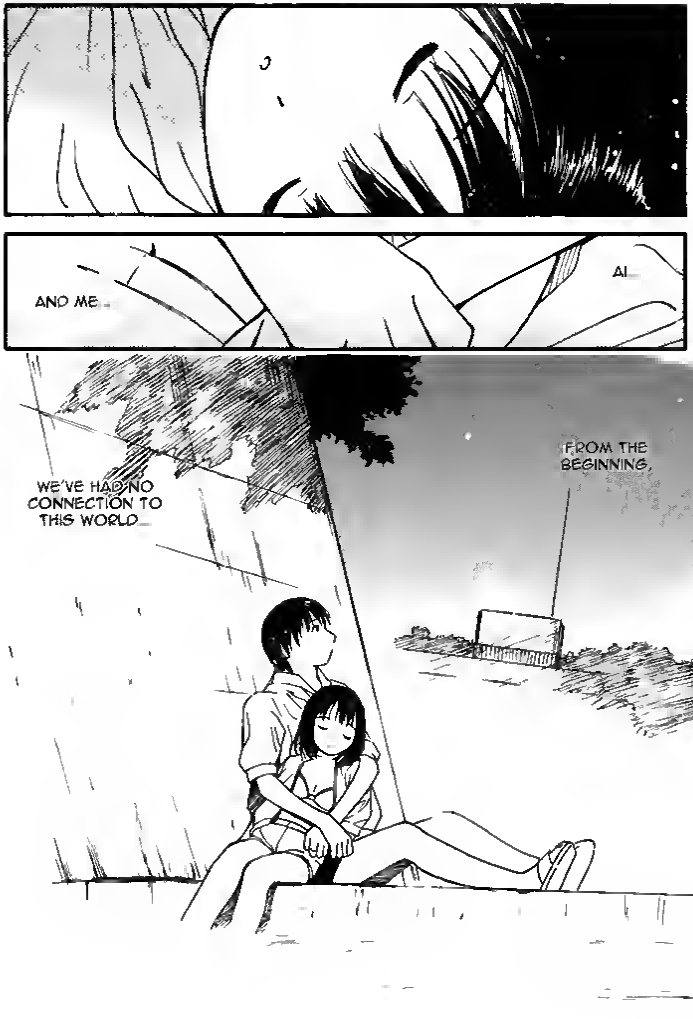


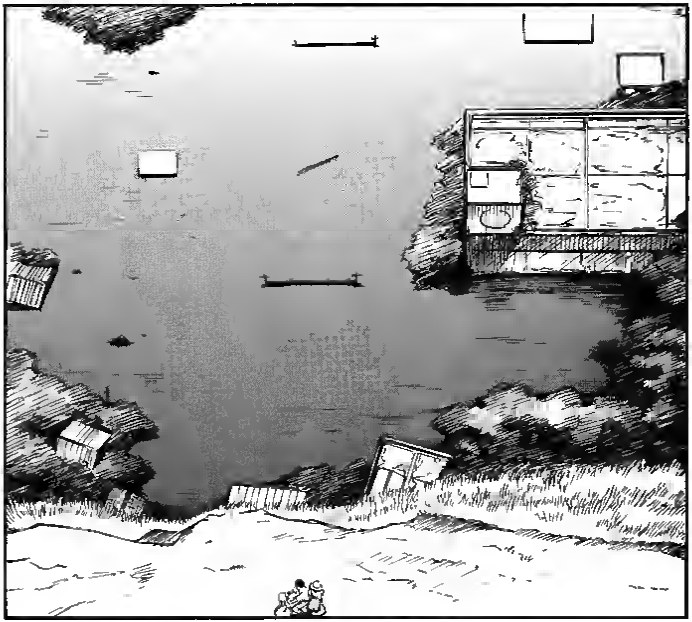


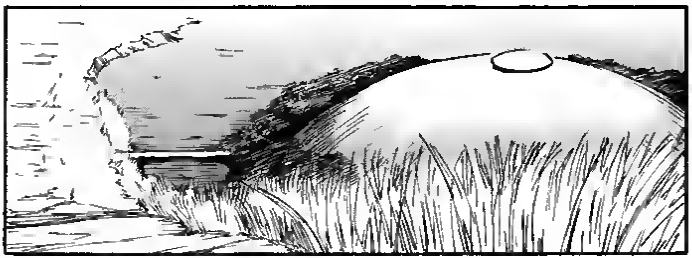
WE WILL DIE ALONGSIDE EVERY OTHER HUMAN IN THIS WORLD...

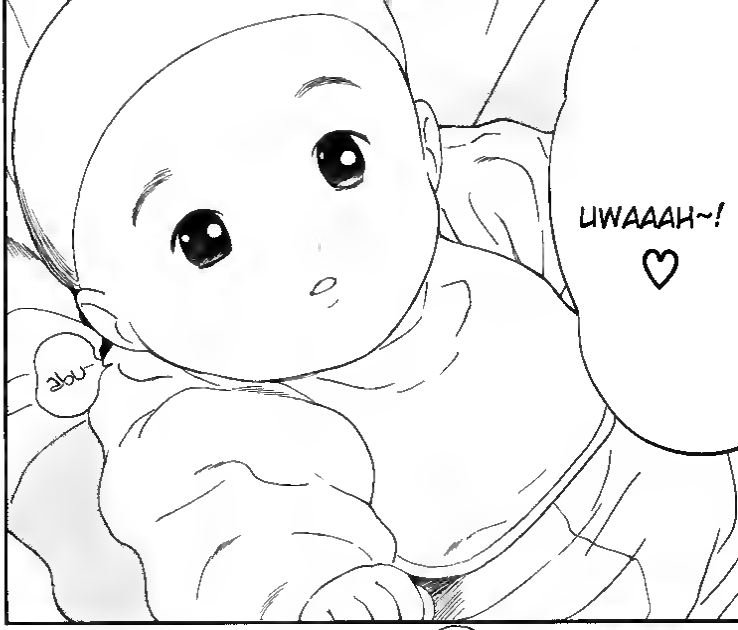
WE WON'T BE DIFFERENT FROM ANYBODY ELSE.

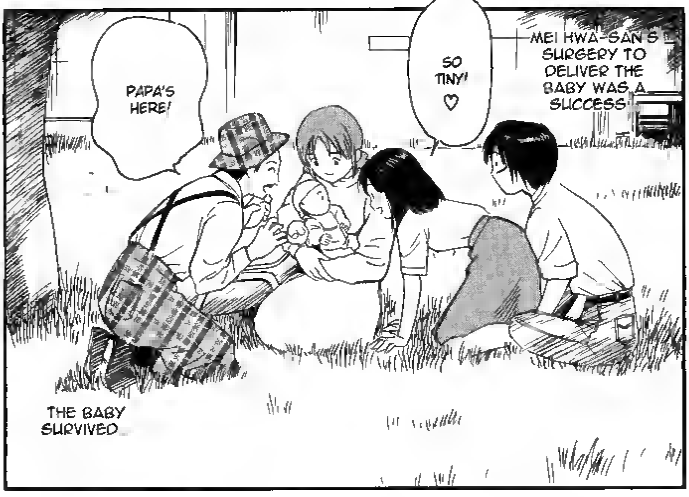
WE WON'T BE SAVED.


AND ME...
AI...
WE'VE HAD NO CONNECTION TO THIS WORLD...
FROM THE BEGINNING.



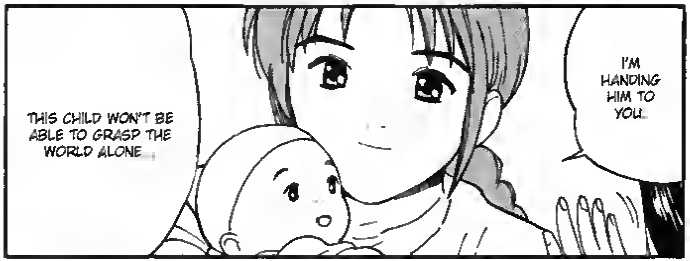



UWAAAH~!
♡


MEI HWA-SAN'S SURGERY TO DELIVER THE BABY WAS A SUCCESS
SO TINY! ♡
PAPA'S HERE!
THE BABY SURVIVED

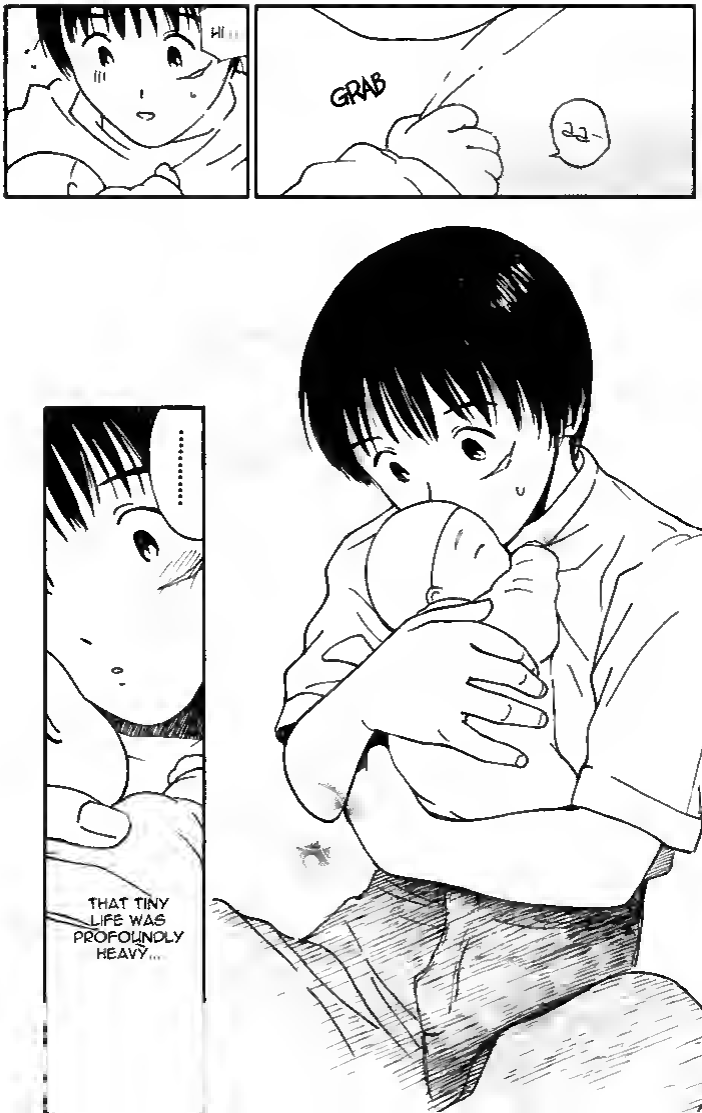
I DIDN'T THINK THAT BLOODSTAINED THING WAS EVEN HUMAN...
IT WAS LIKE SOME OTHER STRANGE CREATURE...
IF YOU LISTEN CAREFULLY, YOU CAN HEAR...
OH, GOOD, GOOD!
COMPLETELY UNREAL
IT SEEMS...
SEEING THAT CHILD WHEN IT HAD JUST BEEN BORN
IT CRIED OUT... WITH AN EARSPLITTING VOICE
TREMBLING AS IT TOOK ITS FIRST BREATH...
THAT STRANGE CREATURE...
DO YOU WANT TO TRY HOLDING HIM, AI-CHAN?
EH? CAN I?!
IT WAS HUMAN.
JUST HOLD HIM IN THE BEND OF YOUR ELBOW
THAT'S IT

OH!
OOH!
TALK TO HIM,
SAY HELLO TO HIM.
HE... HELLO
HE'LL FACE MORE HARD-SHIPS THAN OTHERS,
BUT HE'LL STAND UP AND FACE IT
MY CHILD IS STRONG!
I'LL LET YOU HOLD HIM TOO
IKURU-KUN
I'M A!
AH! HE LAUGHED! HE LAUGHED!
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.
NO THAT'S OKAY...
EH?
WHAT?


THIS CHILD WON'T BE ABLE TO GRASP THE WORLD ALONE...
I'M HANDING HIM TO YOU..

HE HAD BEEN WAITING TO BE BORN, WAITING FOR HIS LIFE TO BEGIN .

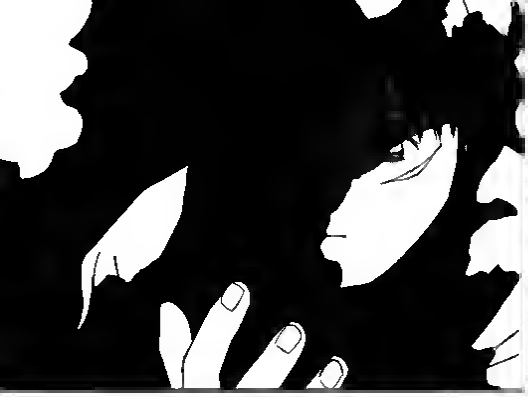
WHATEVER HE SEES, HEARS AND TOUCHES.. EVERYTHING...
THIS CHILD HAS ENTERED A NEW WORLD..


HI...
GRAB
AA-
.....
THAT TINY LIFE WAS PROFOUNDLY HEAVY...

MPH?!
PUU!
AHH!
HAHA, I THINK HE LIKES YOU!
I'M JEALOUS

AH.

I want to run away.
BUMP
WAA!
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT'S WRONG?
WEE!
WHY AM I SO BOTHERED?
UNTIL NOW, IT NEVER BOTHERED ME
ALL THOSE LAUGHING, SCREAMING VOICES
AHAHA!
WAIT UP!
IT'S,
CORNERING ME
NOW IT'S PIERCING ME

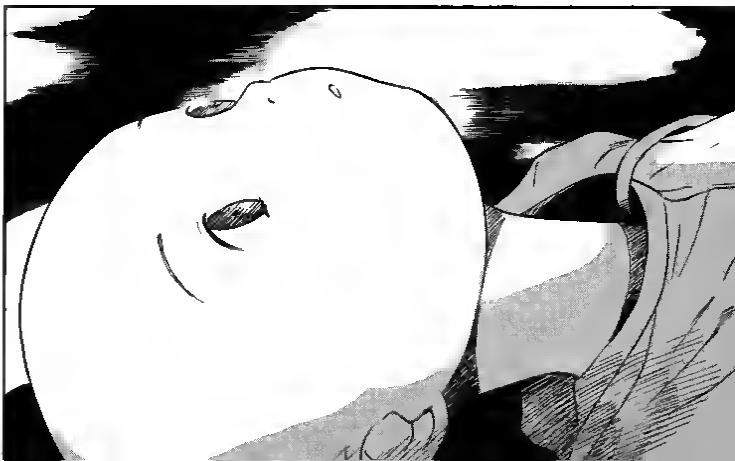


I have no real connection to this world

...do I?

BIIIII
BIIIII
!!
IIIIIII
BIIIII
EVERYONE IN THE COURTYARD, PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR ROOMS!
ONCE INSIDE, SHUT AND LOCK YOUR DOORS!
WHAT THE...
IIIII
AH!
HARUKA!
CUT THE ALARM! IT'S JUST MAKING A RACKET!

!!
SENSEI! FIRST, YOUR WOUND!
AH!
IF YOU FIND HIM, BE CAREFUL!
HE'S DANGER-OUS! CALL FOR BACKUP!
IIIIIIII
.....
IIIII
I...
RUSTLE
BADUMP
HA-



SENSEI!
WHAT HAPPENED?
THAT KID...
...TOOK OFF...
HE DETATCHED HIMSELF FROM LIFE SUPPORT
BY NOW, HE MUST HAVE...
PLEASE TRY TO MOVE AS LITTLE AS...
SHUT UP AND START SEARCHING!
THAT KID COULD KILL SOMEONE!
IKURU
HEY
THE WORLD

whatever he sees, hears, and touches... everything...
you cannot grasp the world alone...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
ARE YOU OKAY?

He has entered a new world!
[Chapter 33 / End]

Well damn, Gari cranked this one out quick. Anyways, more Ikuru/Ai goodness, though things have started to take a more serious turn. I must admit, until this and the previous chapter, I was a bit confused as to how the two storylines (Camelo Carelen and HITO vs Ikuru/Ai) fit together, but things are getting a bit clearer now I guess. Well, whatever, we'll see how things turn out as the manga goes on

-p00k

Averaging about a chapter a day. Not a bad start. I kind of wanted to do a chapter of something else after this one, but since it's a bit of a cliffhanger that may be cruel .. Even if I do, it will probably be no more than a week til the next Ai-Ren release, p00k's schedule permitting.

-Gari

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Editing: p00k
QC: p00k, BigVinny, Gari

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愛人 [AI-REN]

Chapter 34. New World

HARUKA...
WE CAN'T LET THAT CHILD BECOME A MURDERER!
UM... A BOY, ABOUT 7 OR 8 YEARS OLD...
JUST WHO IS THIS KID?
HEY, EXPLAIN YOURSELF PROPERLY...
HE MUST HAVE BEEN RAISED BY A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION...

I THOUGHT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO SMILE AGAIN, TO CRY AGAIN...
BUT HIS BRAIN HAS ALREADY BEEN PHYSICALLY ALTERED...
RAISED...
THEY MASS-PRODUCE CLONES BASED ON THE SURVIVING "SOLDIERS OF JUSTICE..."
HIS INDIVIDUALITY, HIS REASONING...
...EVERYTHING WAS STOLEN FROM HIM...
STED
...LL HE KNOWS...
...IS TO TRE T ANYONE HE MEETS ...S AN ENEMY...

KILLING IS ALL HE CAN DO...

SPLISH
IT'S COLD...
STAB
HUU-
HAA-

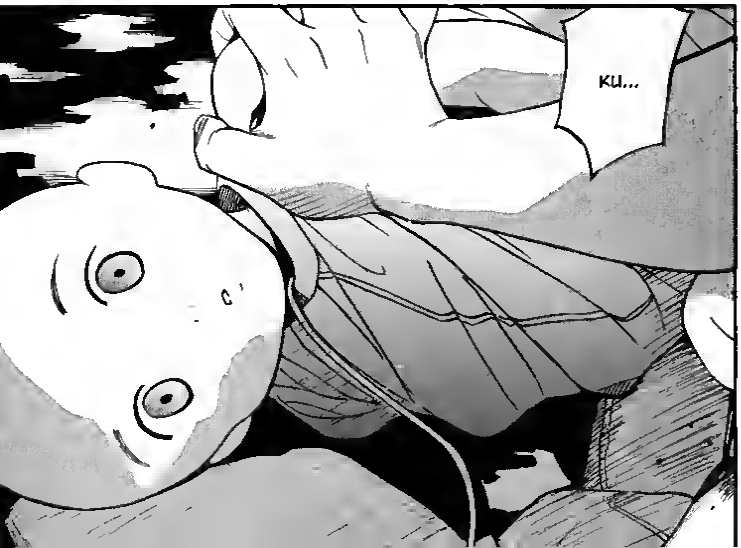
.....
TWIST
.....!!
AH
HAA-
HAAH
AH!
OH!
OO!!

AHH!!
SSKK
TSSS
AAH..!
AH
KKK
KKAA-

HAH
OOH..!

AA!
AH..!

HAA!


KU...

ROLL
AAU!
SLIP
WAHH!
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
THUD
GU...

HUU
HAA

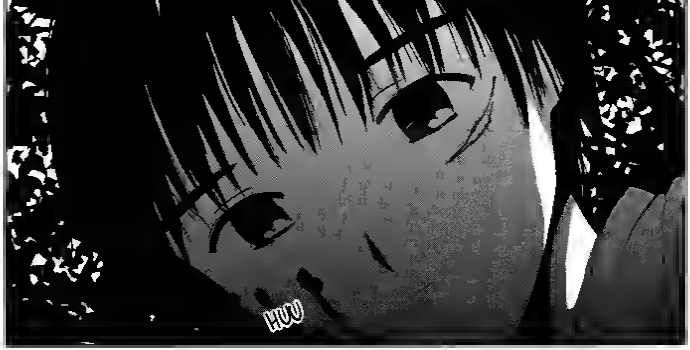
HAH
...
HAH
...
HAH
...
HUU
HUU-

HAH
HAA
HUU

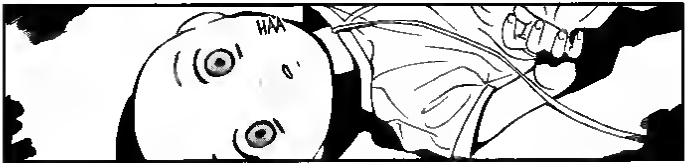
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF
IF HE'S DANGEROUS, I'LL GO
I'LL KILL HIM IF I MUST
.....
CONSIDERING YOU'RE A SIXES... WERE YOU BEING CARELESS?
HAH!
THIS IS QUITE UNUSUAL!
SIXES-SENSEI...
IT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT...
...THAT KID...
HAH!
...IS ROTTEN TO THE CORE!
.....

...ARE GOING TO DIE SOON, AREN'T YOU..?
YOU...
HUU
HUU
I GUESS I JUST WANTED TO TRY AND CARE FOR THE SICK
AND...
HE MANAGED TO RUN AWAY...
I COULDN'T HELP IT...
THERE WAS JUST SOMETHING ABOUT THAT KID

I WANTED TO TRY TO HELP HIM LIVE.
HUU
HUU



I have no connection to this world.



I will die alongside everyone else.

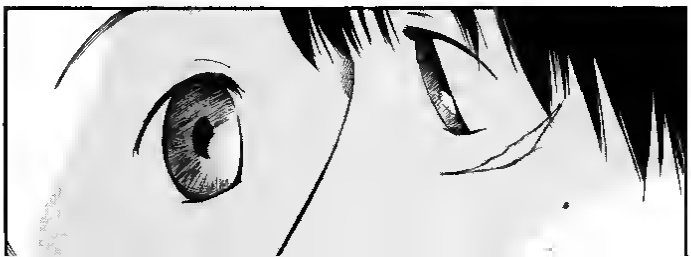
Will I really..?

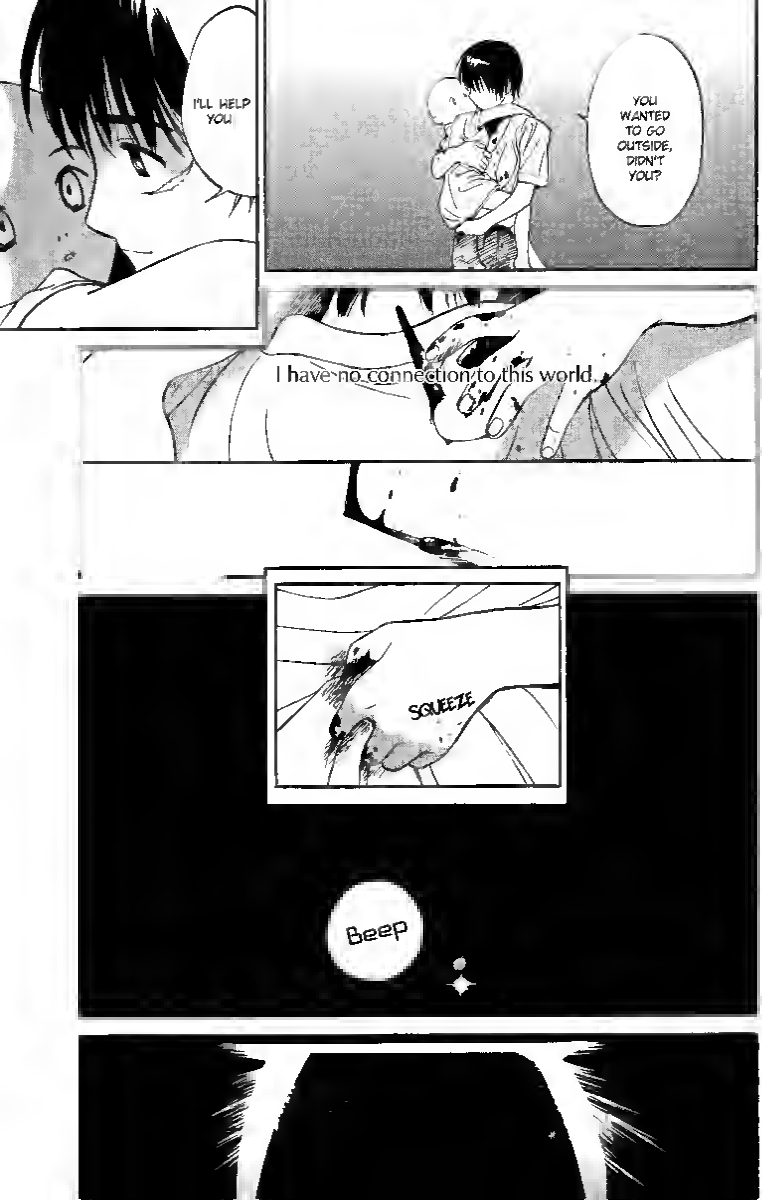
GRAB
SHU-
DRIP
DRIP

Give up.

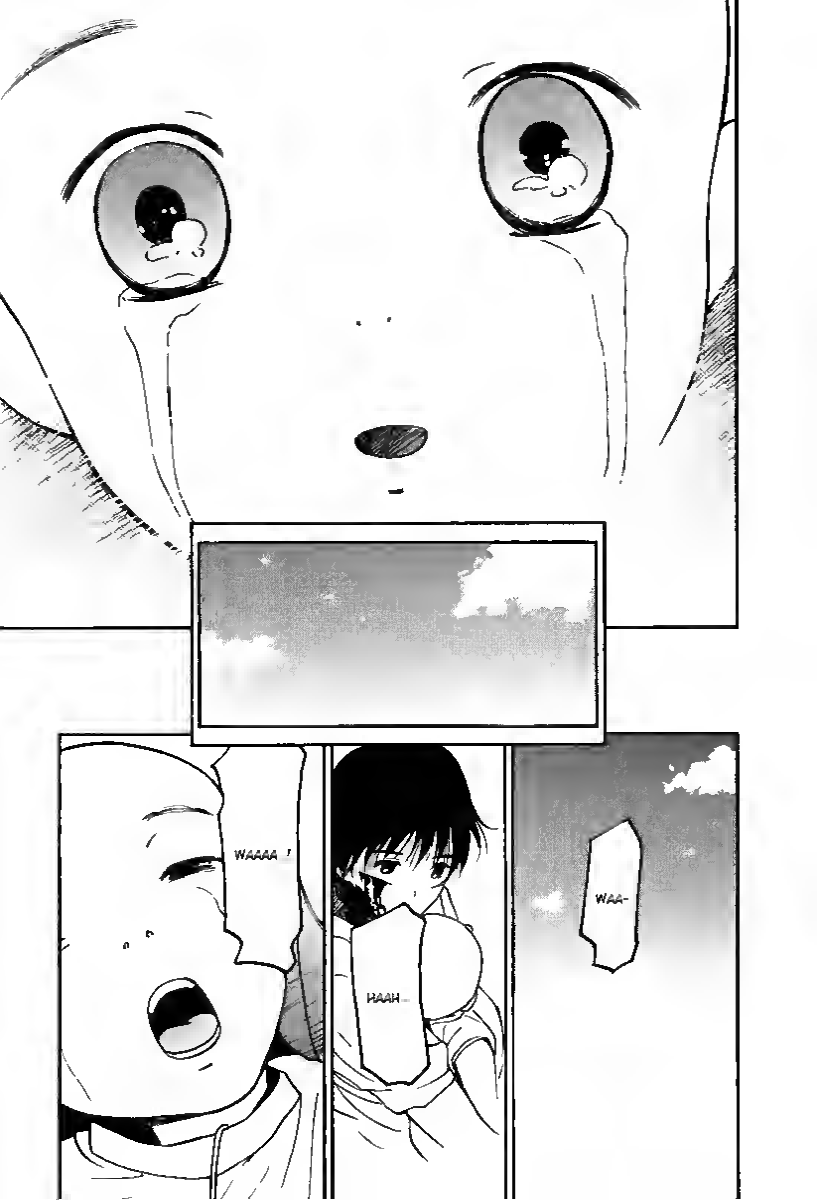
The world doesn't want you.

HUP-

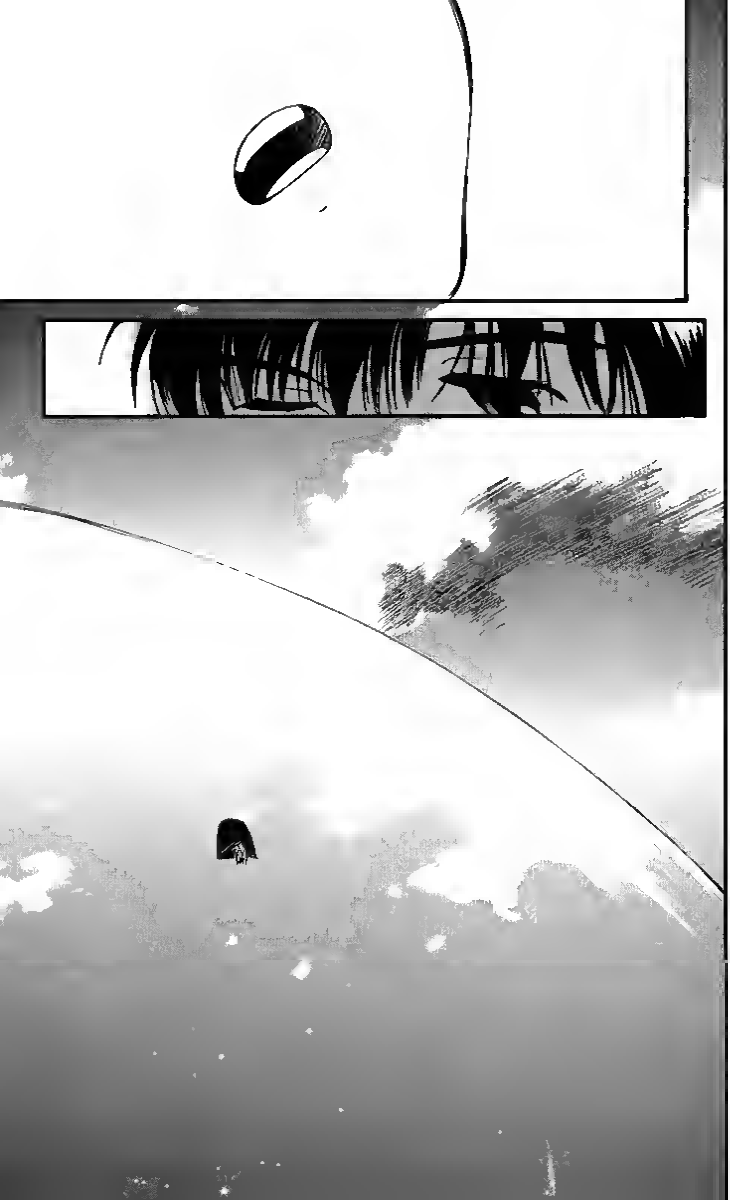



I'LL HELP YOU
YOU WANTED TO GO OUTSIDE, DIDN'T YOU?
I have no connection to this world.
SQUEEZE
Beep

YEAH
BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?


WAAAA !
WAA-
HAAH...

HAAA-!
WAAAAH!
AAA-
HAAAA!
HAA-



IKURU-
IKURU..!
AI...
SHHH.

You can never...

However,

...be like everyone else in this world...

[Chapter 34 / End]

Let's have a moment of silence for the poor kid

Hooray for easy chapters! I've been sick, so the mere couple hours it took me to translate this ended up being spread out over a few days. Expect more soon!

-Gari

Anyways, next chapter is a doozy, so it might take a bit longer. Oh well, good things come to those who wait

-p00k

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Editing: p00k
QC: p00k, BigVinny, Gari

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IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, HE CHANGED FROM A CHILD..

TO A CORPSE.

愛人 [AI-REN]

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD EVER SEEN SOMEONE DIE

Chapter 35 I Am Alive

I'M SORRY...
...THAT YOU HAD TO SEE SUCH A TERRIBLE THING...
DO YOUR WOUNDS HURT?
NO.
IT'S NOT AS BAD AS IT LOOKS
AND YOU, SENSEI?
I'M FINE TOO
THAT'S GOOD
JUST A SCRATCH
IKURU-KUN
THAT CHILD DIDN'T ATTACK YOU BECAUSE OF SOMETHING YOU DID...
...AND NOTHING COULD HAVE BEEN DONE ABOUT HIS DEATH...
THAT CHILD WAS JUST POORLY MADE NO MATTER WHAT WE TRIED. WE COULDN'T HELP HIS SITUATION...

THAT'S RIGHT...
HE ALMOST KILLED ME...
YEAH
WE TRIED FOR HALF AN HOUR, BUT WE COULDN'T REVIVE HIM...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, SENSEI?
kill...
die...
I WANT TO THANK YOU..
HE TRIED TO KILL ME

IKURU-KUN,
YOU SAVED THAT CHILD...
I AM TRULY THANKFUL

EH
I SAVED...?

SEEING HIS EXPRESSION IN DEATH, I KNEW...

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN SOMEONE DIE...
YOU KNOW,
.....
YEAH...
LET'S HAVE SOME TEA.
AS SHOULD I...
YOU SHOULD SHOW YOUR FACE AROUND HERE MORE OFTEN...
IT WASN'T AS BAD AS I HAD IMAGINED. IN FACT, IT WAS SOMEWHAT PEACEFUL.
YEAH...
KOP
KOP
I'LL START DEGRADING PRETTY SOON.
THE PAINKILLERS HAVE ALMOST COMPLETELY LOST THEIR EFFICACY, AND I DOUBT I'LL SEE ANOTHER DAY THAT I CAN EAT...
THE TIME FOR AI TO PASS IS APPROACHING AS WELL...
AI... AND I...
WILL BE GONE, JUST LIKE THAT...

SENSEI...
...I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY...
...I COULDN'T SAVE YOU...
MY HANDS WERE SOAKED...
...FROM SENSEI'S TEARS...
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT THE "OTHER PERSON" IN YOU...
THERE ISN'T ANYTHING ANYONE CAN DO...

...FOR SOME REASON, I FELT EXCITED...
I'M NOT CONFUSED.
BUT SENSEI...
SENSEI!
IT MAY SEEM A LITTLE STRANGE, BUT...
TODAY, AFTER SEEING DEATH FOR THE FIRST TIME
I'M ALIVE
RIGHT NOW,
I AM ALIVE RIGHT NOW.

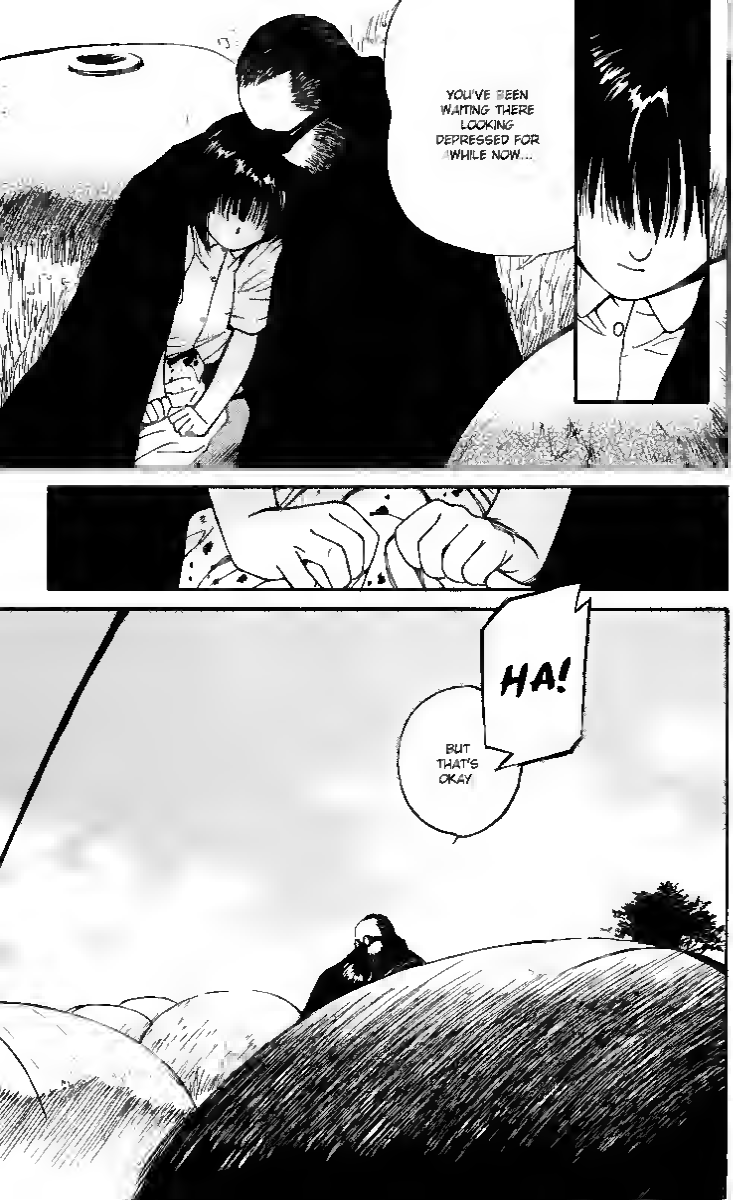
SENSEI!
EXCUSE ME! PLEASE COME WITH ME!
WHAT IS IT?
ONE OF THE CHILDREN WAS FRIGHTENED BY THE INCIDENT EARLIER.
HE KEEPS SAYING "DEATH IS SCARY..."
HE'S PANICKING, AND WE DON'T WANT TO TOUCH HIM IN CASE IT TURNS OUT TO BE SOME SORT OF BIOCHEMICAL PROBLEM...

I UNDERSTAND. I'LL BE THERE SOON.
GEEZ, THERE'S A LOT OF WORK TODAY...

IKURU-KUN
MAKE SURE YOU GET A GOOD REST BEFORE GOING HOME...
THAT TIME, I WASN'T THINKING WHEN I SPOKE...
SENSEI!

P, PLEASE, TAKE ME WITH YOU!

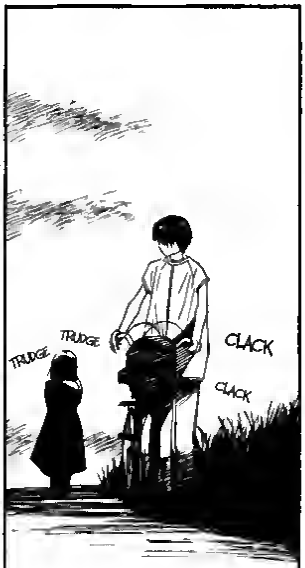
HA!
GRAB
!!
EH?
DON'T HOLD BACK
EH?
.....


YOU'VE BEEN WAITING THERE LOOKING DEPRESSED FOR A WHILE NOW...
HA!
BUT THAT'S OKAY

I GUESS I MADE YOU WORRY...
I'M SORRY FOR TAKING SO LONG...

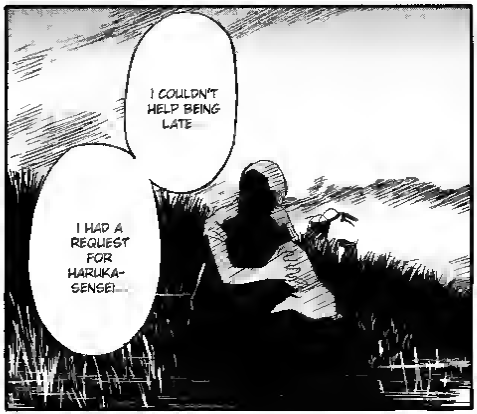
YEAH
STEP
TRUDGE
.....

ARE YOU ANGRY ?
.....

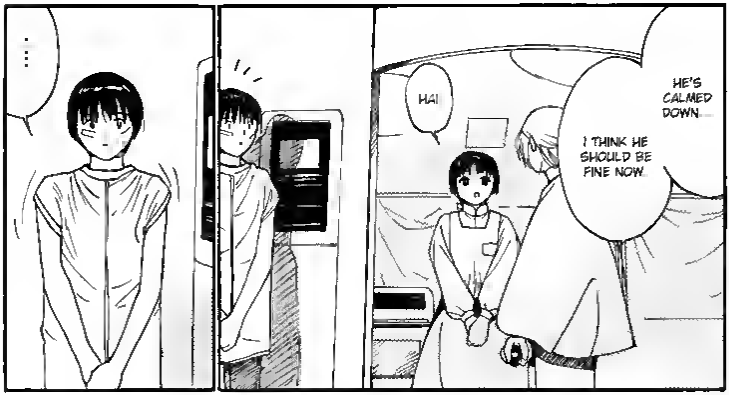

TRUDGE
TRUDGE
CLACK
CLACK

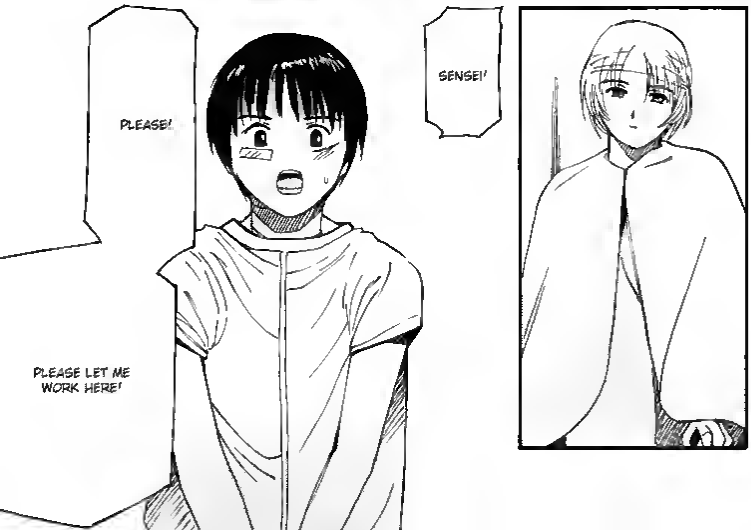
YEAH
.....
TAP
TAP
STEP
.....
I'M SORRY.
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN.
I WAS REALLY SCARED..!
IKURU-
GRAB

I'M SORRY I MADE YOU WORRY
I ALREADY PROMISED... NO MATTER WHAT, I WON'T DIE AND LEAVE YOU...
HUG


I COULDN'T HELP BEING LATE...
I HAD A REQUEST FOR HARUKA-SENSEI...

PLEASE LET ME WORK HERE!

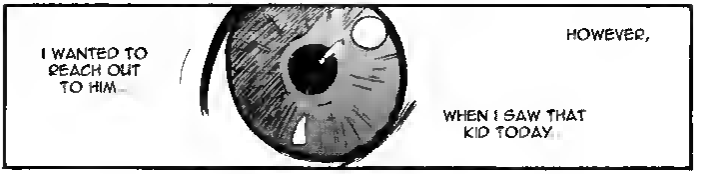

...
HAI
I THINK HE SHOULD BE FINE NOW.
HE'S CALMED DOWN.


PLEASE!
PLEASE LET ME WORK HERE!
SENSEI!

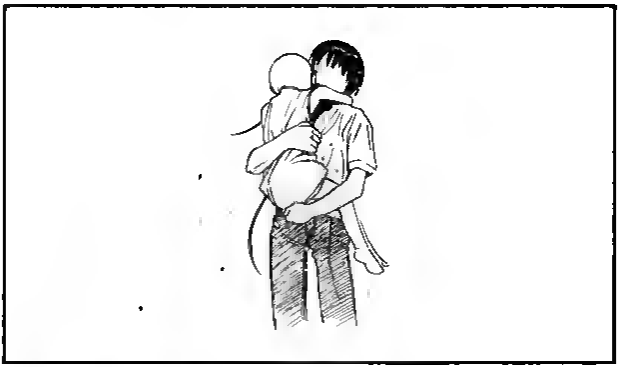
KURU-KUN...
THERE ARE LOTS OF CHILDREN HERE,
AND THEY'LL HAVE TO FACE THE TERROR OF DEATH...
I'M AFRAID, JUST LIKE THEY ARE!!
LET ME DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP THOSE KIDS!
I WANT TO TRY AND RELATE TO THEM!

I WILL DIE SOON IF I DIE TAKING CARE OF AI...
...IF I CAN DO THAT, THEN I'LL BE SATISFIED
BUT IT'S NOT JUST THAT.
I DON'T WANT TO BE PITIED..
A MAN LOVED BY YOU WON'T DIE A PITIFUL DEATH.

A LONELY, DESOLATE FEAR...
SENSEI,
A COLD, DARK, HELPLESS FEELING...
THE FEAR OF BEING KILLED...
TODAY, I WAS NEARLY KILLED...
This is a fear I must live with.



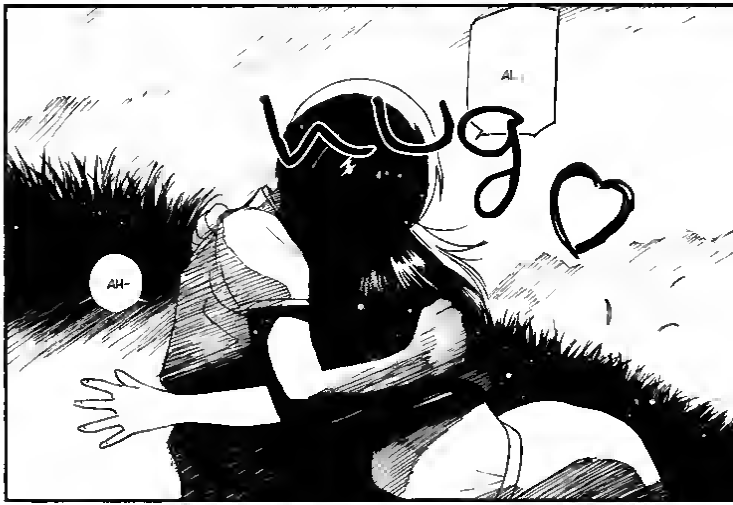
That was my first instinct...



IF I HAVE ONLY TEN DAYS TO LIVE,
I AM ALIVE NOW
I AM ALIVE NOW
IT'S SAD THAT WE WILL DIE,
NOBODY CAN SAVE ME...
...NOR CAN I SAVE ANYONE ELSE...
ALL I CAN DO IS LOOK AFTER AI...
YOU TAUGHT ME TO KEEP FIGHTING, SENSEI...
THIS WORLD DOESN'T CARE IF I'M HERE...
BUT I CAN STILL LOVE...
THIS WORLD MAY NOT CARE FOR ME,
BUT,
THERE IS SOMEONE IN THIS WORLD WHO LOVES ME...
...AND SOMEONE WHOM I LOVE...
...THE WAY FOR ME...
THE WAY FOR SOMEONE, BORN WITHOUT ARMS OR LEGS, WITH NOTHING TO DO BUT DIE...
I FOUND IT, SENSEI...

...TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE WORLD!

SENSEI FINALLY GAVE ME THE OKAY
ON DAYS WHEN I'M FEELING BETTER, JUST 2-3 HOURS...
JUST HELPING WITH ODD JOBS


AI...
AH-

AI, THIS IS THE STRENGTH YOU'VE GIVEN ME...
IT'S WHAT YOU'VE TAUGHT ME
AND OF COURSE, THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT...

SINCE MEETING YOU, SINCE LIVING WITH YOU...
THERE ISN'T ANYBODY... THERE COULD NEVER BE ANYBODY...
WHO IS HAPPIER THAN I AM.
IT'S NO ILLUSION...

IT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED!
IKURU...
AAH! AI!
YEAH
ALL DONE
<IKURU AI>
IKURU'S BRIDE...
LIVE WITH ME.

LOOK IKURU
AI LOVES IKURU
... VERY MUCH
BUT IT'S A SECRET
I'M TELLING TO IKURU
...is something
irreplaceable...
AMAZING
LIKE THE STARS ARE RAINING DOWN ON US
...It can always
change things...
Ikuru Ai

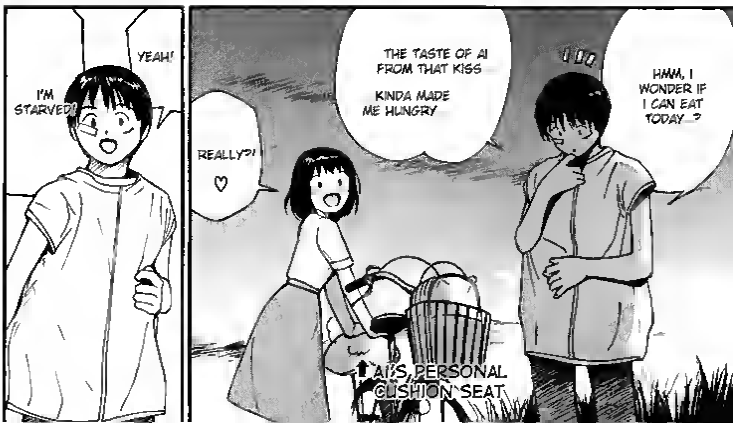
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO LIVE WITH ME.
THIS TIME I WANT TO SAY IT TO SOMEONE ELSE SOMEONE OTHER THAN AI...
IN THIS, OUR ONLY LIFE... I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU, AND YOU WITH ME...
WE MAY HAVE NO CONNECTION TO THIS WORLD, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO BE LONELY

Ikuru
Ai

Now I can die satisfied...

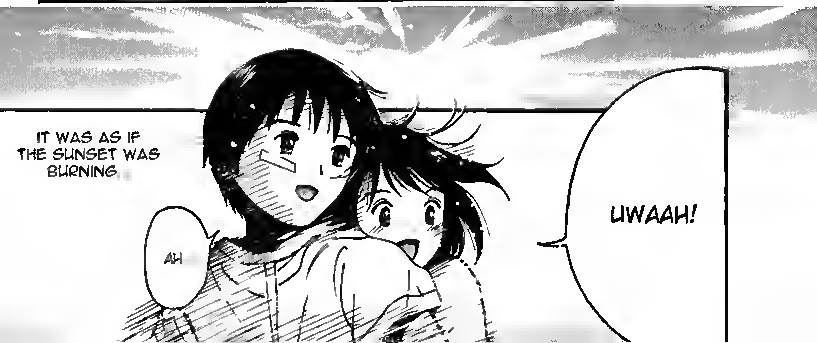
NO WAY!
IKURU,
THAT'S NOT FAIR!
AI WILL WORK WITH YOU.
♡
YEAH!
YEAH!
YEAH!
OKAY!
IKURU-
♡

IKURU-
♡


YEAH!
I'M STARVED!
REALLY?! ♡
THE TASTE OF AI FROM THAT KISS KINDA MADE ME HUNGRY
HMM, I WONDER IF I CAN EAT TODAY...?
1 AI'S PERSONAL CUSHION SEAT

WAAH!
♡
EATING TOGETHER!
♡
EATING TOGETHER!
♡

WE'LL BE HOME SOON, RIGHT?
I'M GONNA MAKE AI'S SPECIAL TOMATO PASTA AAAND POTATO SOUP!
♡
OOOH! ♡ THEN I'LL MAKE DESSERT!
♡
OK!
♡


UWAAH!
IT WAS AS IF THE SUNSET WAS BURNING
AH

The world...
...was sparkling brightly.

Wow, the end of this chapter sort of crept up on me, but I guess that happens when the middle is so wordy. Only one volume left, which makes me both happy and sad.

-Gari

[AI-REN]

I really liked this chapter, simply because we got to see a bit more of Haruka-sensei. Really, she's one of the most underappreciated characters in this manga, and it was nice to see a bit more of her softer side. Anyways, 4 volumes down, 1 to go.

-pOOk

RAW: USC GAMEHOCKS TRANSLATION: GARI EDIT: POOK QC: POOK, GARI, BIGVINNY

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Even if the world comes to an end,
Even if you die... or I die...
It's not that big a deal...

It's not that big a deal.

愛人 [AI-REN]

The parody of God said,
"You may love me."

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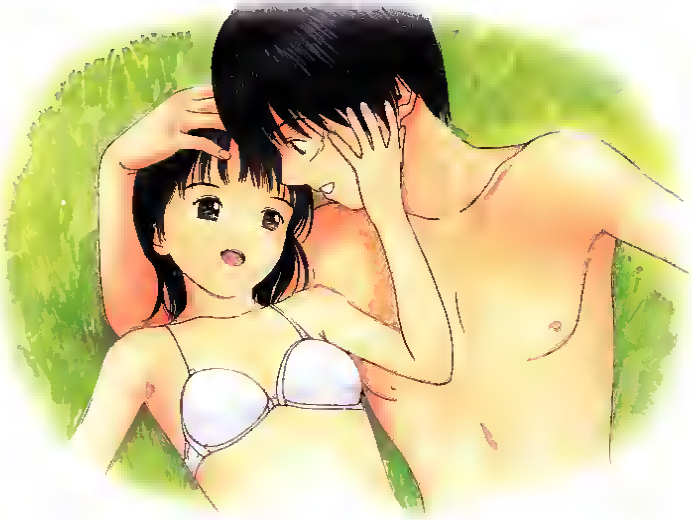

In this world,
There is someone who loves me,
And someone whom I love.

愛人 [AI-REN]